

1993

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Runners chasing berths; baseball opener Feb. 13

1-28-93

A Daily News report

Two Western Kentucky University seniors will try Friday in a meet in Johnson City, Tenn., to qualify for the NCAA indoor track championships.

Eddie O'Carroll, who finished ninth in the NCAA cross-country championships last fall, must cover 5,000 meters in 13 minutes, 55.30 seconds or run one of the 16 fastest times of the year to qualify for the NCAA meet. His race at the East Tennessee State meet begins at 9:50 p.m. CST.

Michelle Murphy is trying to qualify in the 3,000 meters and must run a 9:35.80. Her race in Johnson City begins at 6:40 p.m.

The rest of Western's track team will compete in the Middle Tennessee State Invitational on Saturday in Murfreesboro. Field events begin at 11:30 a.m., and running events start at 2 p.m.

Baseball

The 75th season of Hilltopper baseball begins Feb. 13 in Atlanta with the opener of a two-game series against Georgia State. A double-header with Morehead State on Feb. 27 opens the spring's play at Nick Denes Field.

"We've got a great schedule this year," Western coach Joel Murrie said. "All of our games are against NCAA Division I teams, and we play three Southeastern Conference schools and two Western Athletic Conference schools. Even just with our Sun Belt Conference games, we have a very difficult schedule."

Western was chosen by Baseball America to finish second in the Sun Belt's East Division behind defending champ South Alabama. The Tops return seven starters from the country's 10th-best hitting team of a

WKU baseball

Western Kentucky University's baseball schedule (times Central):

Feb. 13, noon — Georgia State	A
Feb. 14, 11 a.m. — Georgia State	A
Arthur J. Gallagher Tournament in San Diego, Calif.	
Feb. 18, 3 p.m. — Utah	A
Feb. 19, 3 p.m. — Nevada	A
Feb. 19, 9 p.m. — San Diego State	A
Feb. 20, 3 p.m. — St. Francis, N.Y.	A
Feb. 27, noon — Morehead State (2)	H
Feb. 28, 1 p.m. — Morehead State	H
March 2, 2 p.m. — Southeast Missouri State	H
March 3, 2 p.m. — Southeast Missouri State	A
March 6, noon — Northeastern Illinois (2)	H
March 7, 1 p.m. — Northeastern Illinois	H
March 10, 1 p.m. — Eastern Kentucky	A
March 11, 1 p.m. — Louisville	A
March 13, noon — Alabama-Birmingham (2)	H
March 16, 2:30 p.m. — Tennessee Tech	A
March 17, 4 p.m. — Valdosta State	A
March 18, 7 p.m. — Jacksonville*	A
March 20, 1:30 p.m. — Jacksonville*	A
March 21, 1:30 p.m. — Jacksonville*	A
March 23, 2:30 p.m. — Vanderbilt	A
March 24, 2:30 p.m. — Tennessee Tech	H
March 27, 1 p.m. — Arkansas-Little Rock* (2)	A
March 28, 1 p.m. — Arkansas-Little Rock*	A
March 30, 2 p.m. — Louisville	H
March 31, 2 p.m. — Tennessee-Martin	A
April 3, noon — Arkansas-Little Rock*	H
April 4, 1 p.m. — Arkansas-Little Rock*	H
April 6, 3 p.m. — Eastern Kentucky	H
April 7, 3 p.m. — Tennessee-Martin	H
April 9, 3 p.m. — Jacksonville*	H
April 10, 1 p.m. — Jacksonville*	H
April 11, 1 p.m. — Jacksonville*	H
April 13, 5 p.m. — Kentucky	A
April 14, 4 p.m. — Marshall	A
April 15, 3 p.m. — Middle Tennessee State	H
April 19, 7:30 p.m. — Middle Tennessee State	A
April 20, 3 p.m. — Evansville	H
April 21, 7 p.m. — Evansville	A
April 24, 4 p.m. — South Alabama* (2)	A
April 25, 1:30 p.m. — South Alabama*	A
April 27, 3:30 p.m. — Austin Peay State	A
April 28, 3 p.m. — Austin Peay State	H
May 1, 1 p.m. — Arkansas State* (2)	H
May 2, 1 p.m. — Arkansas State*	H
May 8, 1 p.m. — Arkansas State* (2)	A
May 9, 2 p.m. — Arkansas State*	A
May 11, 3 p.m. — Alabama	H
May 12, 3 p.m. — Kentucky	H
May 13, 3 p.m. — Vanderbilt	H

*—Sun Belt Conference opponent.

(2)—doubleheader.

year ago. Western finished 30-23 in 1992 and placed second in the Sun Belt East with a 10-11 mark.

Quotes of the week

DN 2-14-93

Effort No. 1

"I think we're using the phrase, 'The victory is in the effort.' That doesn't mean that we are planning on losing, but everybody on this team is realistic and knows what's going on." — Bowling Green High School girls' basketball coach Steve Bruce, who has lost three of his top players this month because of injuries.

Balancing act

"I don't regret what I've done. It just got to be too much trying to balance school and basketball." — Senior forward Debbie Scott on her decision to leave Western Kentucky University's women's basketball team.

Macklin support

"I hate to sound negative or bitter, but every time you pick up The Courier-Journal, (Louisville Male's) Jason Osborne is plastered on there. Danyell rarely gets a sentence as a candidate for Mr. Basketball.

"If you base Mr. Basketball on what's been done this year, Danyell has to be it in my mind." — Louisville Pleasure Ridge Park High School boys' basketball coach Dale

Mabrey on Danyell Macklin, a WKU signee who is considered a leading candidate for Mr. Basketball.

WKU baseball

"I want our pitchers to challenge the other team, to say, 'Here it is, hitter. It's me against you, but I've got eight other guys behind me.' The only way the hitter can win is if we walk him." — WKU baseball coach Joel Murrie on his expectations for the upcoming season.

Ashe remembered

"Arthur Ashe's passing away makes this a very sad day, not only for the world of sports, but the entire world in general. Not only was Arthur a leading figure and pioneer for minorities in sports and business, but also in the fight against HIV and AIDS. He was one of the best men of his generation, and his loss is a loss for all of us." — Magic Johnson, on the death of Arthur Ashe.

Ryan retirement

"I don't want to stay too long and I'd rather be premature in leaving baseball than stay too late and have

to retire in an awkward position." — Nolan Ryan, announcing this will be his last season.

Blown call

"It's a league policy that coaches aren't allowed to discuss officiating. I've had to bite my tongue to the point that it's almost cut off." — Bruce Parkhill, Penn State coach, after a blown call with 17.3 seconds left cost Penn State the game against Indiana. Indiana escaped with a 88-84 double-overtime victory.

Quick fight

"I told you I wasn't going to fool around." — Riddock Bowe, about his 2:19 fight with Michael Dokes.

Byrd recovery

"I have never seen the church rally to pray for a person more fervently than they have prayed for Dennis. He has impacted the oldest and the youngest at our church.

"Everybody is so moved with compassion over what happened because he is one of the nicest human beings who ever breathed. We are thrilled and delighted he is coming home." — H.A. Brummett, pastor of the Woodlake Assembly of God church in Tulsa, where injured

NFL player Dennis Byrd, wife Angela and 2-year-old daughter Ashton live in the offseason.

WKU baseball team opens season 2-0

A Daily News report

2-15-93

Western Kentucky University's baseball team opened its season with two lopsided victories at Georgia State this weekend. The Hilltoppers won 20-4 on Saturday and 14-2 Sunday.

In Saturday's game in Atlanta, seven Hilltoppers hit. Ryan Hepworth, Barry Nesbitt and Ed Sharer had two hits each. Gus Moen drove in three runs. Hep-

worth stole two bases. An eighth-run seventh inning was the clincher.

Darin Bernhard, a right-handed transfer from Valencia Community College in Orlando, Fla., pitched five scoreless innings for the victory.

In Sunday's game, Bill Weyers had five hits in seven at-bats, two runs batted in and two runs scored.

Sean Thomas, a catcher who also transferred from Valencia, hit two home runs. Clay Wiedenbein and Paul Jackson homered, as well. And Hepworth, who had three hits, stole another base.

Matt Cook, a right-handed transfer from Muscatine (Iowa) Community College, gave up one earned run and two hits in five innings of pitching for the victory.

SPORTS

Baseball

At San Diego 2-2
St. Francis (N.Y.) 300 515 205-51112
Western Ky. 400 531 504-15 2 2
Helena, Giordano (5), Ventura (7), Bruno
(6), DiGios (9) and Caracci, Carr, Wallace,
Carpenter (5), Taylor (6), W. — Carpenter (1)
O. L. — Giordano (0-1), 2B — Mirasole (SF),
Lanzaro (SF), Davis (WGU), Moon (WGU),
Weyers (WGU), 1B — Beard (SF), Greco
(SF), Jackson (WGU), Wiedenben (WGU).
GREAT SAVANNAH TOURNAMENT

WKU baseball team splits a pair

A Daily News report 2-22-93

Western Kentucky University's baseball team split a pair of games in San Diego on Sunday, beating St. Francis 13-9 and falling to San Diego State 6-4.

Against St. Francis, the Hilltoppers had nine hits, including homers by outfielder Paul Jackson and shortstop Clay Wiedenbein. Designated hitter Greg Slone had two hits

in two at-bats and one run batted in.

Western never trailed after taking a 7-4 lead in the bottom of the fifth. Dean Carpenter, a senior right-hander, gave up three earned runs and seven hits in 4 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings and was the winning pitcher.

Against San Diego State, Western fell behind 4-1 and rallied to tie in the top of the seventh before falling.

Sophomore left-hander Andy Alepra, who relieved junior right-hander Darin Bernhard in the sixth, was the losing pitcher.

Outfielders Ryan Hepworth and Jackson each had two hits for Western.

The Hilltoppers are 3-1 and play Morehead State at noon Saturday at E.A. Diddle Arena.

WKU rallies past San Diego State

A Daily News report

Western Kentucky University's baseball team rallied for five runs in the final two innings Monday night to defeat San Diego State 10-5.

Doug Smyly (1-0) got the win on the mound for the Hilltoppers, who improved to 4-2.

Western's game that was scheduled for today was canceled, so the team will return to Bowling Green tonight.

Western	301	100	014-10	12	1
San Diego State	011	110	010-5	9	2

DN 2-23-83

Sun Belt tourney opener in Biloxi

By The Associated Press

METAIRIE, La. — Jacksonville and Louisiana Tech will play at Biloxi, Miss., in the first round of the Sun Belt Conference post-season men's basketball tournament, the conference announced Friday.

The tournament's No. 8 and No. 9 seeds originally would have played March 3 at the home court of the No. 8 seed, but that was changed to 11 a.m. on March 5 at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum by mutual agreement of the two schools.

DA 2-75-93

Topper Baseball



Upcoming Home Games

S.E. Missouri.....	Tues., 3/2, 2 p.m.
N.E. Illinois (Double Header).....	Sat., 3/6, 12 p.m.
N.E. Illinois.....	Sun., 3/7, 1 p.m.

TICKETS

Adults.....\$4.00
Children.....\$3.00

**Baseball Entrance at
Center Street Only.**

Western baseball games canceled

Western Kentucky University's baseball games scheduled for today and Wednesday against Southeast Missouri State have been canceled because of uncooperative weather.

The Hilltoppers (4-2) were to play SEMO at Nick Denes Field today, but the game was called off because of rain. Western has not played a home game yet this season; the scheduled home-opening double-header with Morehead State was canceled because of snow last weekend.

Snow remains on the ground in Cape Girardeau, so Western's visit to SEMO on Wednesday has also been nixed.

The Tops will try again Saturday in a double-header with Northeastern Illinois, set to begin at noon at Denes Field.

DN 3-2-93

Baseball Tops hope for clear skies, finally

If weather permits — and it hasn't so far — Western Kentucky University's baseball team will play its first home game of the season at noon Saturday.

Rain or snow has canceled the Hilltoppers' first four scheduled games for Nick Denes Field this season. Northeastern Illinois will visit this weekend for a three-game series, beginning with Saturday's double-header and capped by Sunday's 1 p.m. finale.

Western (4-2) is scheduled to start juniors Darin Bernhard and Matt Cook at pitcher in Saturday's two games.

Northeastern Illinois hasn't yet played a game this season. •

DN 3-5-93

WKU sweeps Northeastern Ill.

A Daily News report 3-7-93

Western Kentucky University's baseball team upped its record to 6-2 with doubleheader sweep of Northeastern Illinois on Saturday at Nick Denes Field.

In the first game, the Hilltoppers broke open a 1-1 tie with three runs in the fourth inning and five runs in the sixth for the 9-1 win. Junior Darin Bernhard got the win on the mound, and Andy Alepra got the save.

Bryan Lawrence, Sean Thomas and Bill Weyers each had two RBIs.

Western won the second game 6-3 after the Hilltoppers scored four runs in the fourth inning. Matt Cook (2-1) was the winning pitcher, and Barry Nesbitt had two RBI.

Northeastern Illinois is 0-2.

First game

Northeastern Illinois 100 000 000- 1 8 0

Western Kentucky 010 305 00x- 9 12 0

WP - Bernhard. LP - Bryan. 2B - Jackson

(WKU), Lawrence (WKU), and Weyers (WKU).

Second game

Northeastern Illinois 101 000 1- 3 5 1

Western Kentucky 011 400 x- 6 11 1

WP - Cook, 2-1. LP - Yovina, 0-1. 2B - Davis

(WKU).

WKU baseball team faces Eastern today

A Daily News report 3-10-93 the Eastern Intercollegiate Championships at Cleveland State on March 6.

Western Kentucky University's baseball team visits two familiar intra-state rivals — Eastern Kentucky today and Louisville on Thursday.

In Richmond today, Hilltopper first baseman Bill Weyers could break Western's hitting streak record. Weyers has gotten a hit in each of the Tops' nine outings so far this season and he carried over a 14-game streak from last season.

Western right-fielder Paul Jackson set the school record, 23 games, in 1992.

The Colonels are 0-3 heading into today's 1 p.m. CST game.

On Thursday, Louisville (1-3) will be without seven baseball players who were suspended because they gambled on college basketball games.

Western (6-3) hosts Alabama-Birmingham in a double-header at noon Saturday at Nick Denes Field.

Western's swim team, meanwhile, recorded its best finish ever at

The Hilltoppers finished seventh. Ben Graves won the 50 freestyle. He is the first Western swimmer ever to win an event at the Easterns since the meet's inception in 1990.

Graves also set a school record with a time of 20.67 seconds. The 200 freestyle relay team's second-place time of 1:22.83 and Chan Ferguson's fifth-place 1:53.50 in the 200 individual medley were also school records.

Also, Western's soccer team signed Lee Hunt, a goal-keeper from Madisonville North Hopkins High School, to a letter-of-intent Tuesday.

"Lee is an outstanding goal-keeper and student," Western coach David Holmes said. "He's a smart keeper who plays with a great deal of composure."

Hunt was an all-state and all-region selection in his senior season.

three on the
and for good reason.

Lawrence and Thomas lift Western over Eastern 15-4

Special to The Courier-Journal

RICHMOND, Ky. — Brian Lawrence and Sean Thomas each smacked a two-run home run during an eight-run fifth-inning rally to propel Western Kentucky to a 15-4 college baseball victory over Eastern Kentucky yesterday.

Bill Weyers, Chris Phillips and Clay Wiedenbein also homered in the 16-hit attack of the Hilltoppers (7-3).

Greg Monelle (1-0) pitched four innings and picked up the win for Western, while David Morris (0-2) took the loss for the Colonels (0-5).

ords — Dayton and ...

At Richmond, Ky.	0-0	1-0	0-2	15	16	0
Western Ky.	0-0	2-0	1-0	4	9	4
Eastern Ky.	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Monelle, Bernhard (6), Smiley (7), Alepry (9) and Thomas, Morris, Stephenson (6), Montgomery (8) and Barthol, Elliott (9), W — Monelle (1-0). L — Morris (0-2). 2B — Phillips (W), Wiedenbein (W), Weyers (W), Kovnesky (E). HR — Lawrence (W), Weyers (W), Thomas (W), Phillips (W), Wiedenbein (W), Winn (E). Minsod (E). Records — Eastern 0-5, Western 7-3.	2	-11	-93			

Hilltoppers rally, down Louisville 12-11

A Daily News report 3-12-93 games.

Western Kentucky University fell behind 5-0 after one inning but came back to post a 12-11 win Thursday over Louisville in college baseball.

Paul Jackson, Chris Phillips, Greg Slone and Clay Weidenbein each slammed home runs for the Tops (8-3), who scored a run in each of the final two innings to cap the comeback.

Doug Smyly, who pitched the final three innings, got the win.

Western's Bill Weyers went hitless in five at-bats, ending his school record hitting streak at 24

Western Kentucky 040 140 111-12 9 3
 Louisville 602 011 200-11 14 4
 WP — Smyly (2-0). LP — Ellingsworth. 2B — Moen
 (WKU), Phillips (WKU), Barnes 2 (LOU), Oppel (LOU). HR
 — Jackson (WKU), Phillips (WKU), Slone (WKU), Weiden-
 bein (WKU), Allen (LOU), Howard (LOU).

Wednesday's game

Weyers set the school hitting-streak record in Wednesday's 15-4 win at Eastern Kentucky University.

Weyers singled and homered as the Hilltoppers pounded out 16 hits. Eastern (0-5) managed 10.

Greg Monelle (1-0) got the win for Western with four strikeouts in four innings. David Morris (0-2) lost.

COLLEGE SPORTS

C. J. Baseball 3-26-3
At Jacksonville, Fla.
 Western 000 011 000-2 8 4
 Jacksonville 100 000 07X-6 12 1
 Bernard, Smyly (6) and Thomas, Slater
 and Hallin, W — Slater, L — Bernard, 2B
 Stone (W) Wiedenhein (W), Escala (J)
 Hamilton (J), HR — Peterson (J), Wood (J).

C. J. Baseball 3-28-3
At Knoxville, Tenn.
 Louisville 000 000 004-4 14 5
 Tennessee 033 120 01X-10 14 5
 Ellingsworth, Shilt (6) and Owens, Hel-
 fran, Helin, Woods (7), Canuth (6), Trokel
 (6) and Northelmer, Hansen, W — Helin (6)
 (6), L — Ellingsworth, 2B — Helin (6)
 Trammell (7), Northelmer (7), Parker (7), HR
 — Wymen (7), Records — Louisville 15-7
 Tennessee 11-3.
At Jacksonville, Fla.
 Western Ky. 010 200 340-10 13 2
 Jacksonville 502 200 002-11 13 2
 Cook, Carpenter (1), Alepra (6), Taylor (6)
 (6), Smith (6), Smyly (6) and Davis, Arguto,
 Santoro (7), Tongue (7), Nee (7), Knobloch
 (6), Ramsey (6), W — Ramsey (1-0), L —
 Smith (0-1), 2B — Davis (W), Phillips (W)
 Escala (J), Merrill 2 (J), Williams (J), Rec-
 ords — Western 8-5, Jacksonville 13-9.

Baseball Tops lose first two in league

Western Kentucky University's baseball team lost its first two Sun Belt Conference games of the season, 8-2 Friday and 11-10 Saturday at Jacksonville.

On Saturday, Western took a 10-9 lead into the bottom of the ninth before Jacksonville rallied. Shaun Smith, a junior lefty, gave up two runs while getting out only one Dolphin in the ninth.

Senior center-fielder Ryan Hepworth had three hits in four at-bats for the Tops.

The Hilltoppers led 2-1 after seven innings Friday. Jacksonville had seven runs in the bottom of the eighth.

Darin Bernhard, a junior right-hander, was the losing pitcher, giving up three earned runs and seven hits in seven innings. He struck out five Dolphins.

Western shortstop Clay Wiedenbein, a junior, had two hits.

DN 3-21-73

Vanderbilt pounds baseball Toppers

Western Kentucky University's baseball team lost 17-3 at Vanderbilt on Tuesday.

Center-fielder Ryan Hepworth had hits in each of his four at-bats, and first baseman Bill Weyers and second baseman Chris Phillips each had two hits for the Hilltoppers.

Darin Bernhard, a junior right-hander who gave up six earned runs in less than four innings of work, was the losing pitcher.

Western plays Tennessee Tech at 2:30 p.m. today and Alabama-Birmingham at 2 p.m. Thursday at Nick Denes Field.

DN. 3-24-93

Baseball

At Richmond, Ky.

Eastern Michigan ... 005 000 1-6 7 0
 Eastern Kentucky ... 000 000 0-0 4 1
 Sean Kenny and David Adams, Schwartzberger, Jonathan Wiggins, Jeff Click (7) and Blake Barthol. W — Kenny (3-0). L — Wiggins (1-2). 2B — Jim Bostock (EM), Troy Coon (EK), Barthol (EK). Records — Eastern Michigan 7-5, Eastern Kentucky 4-11.

At Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Kentucky 000 040 020-6 10 1
 Alabama 001 000 020-3 8 1
 Smith and Thompson. Drumheller, Weems (8) and Hill. W — Smith (3-4). L — Drumheller (4-1). 2B — Anderson (A), Hinderman 2 (K). 3B — Oliver (A).

At Little Rock, Ark.

Western Ky. 000 005 102-8 11 3
 Ark.-Little Rock . 200 001 011-5 8 4
 Bernhard, Carpenter (8), Smyly (7), Taylor (9) and Thomas. Grieff, Pierce (6), Haines (8) and Roybal. W — Bernhard (3-2). L — Grieff (3-5). 2B — Jackson (W), Hepworth (W), Thomas (W).

Western Kentucky 200 261 2-13 13 2
 Ark.-Little Rock . 301 100 4- 9 13 1
 Alepra, Monelle (4), Taylor (9) and Davis. Lopez, Ryan (6), Haines (5), Harper (7) and Roybal. W — Monelle (2-1). L — Ryan (1-2). 2B — Weyers (W), Greenley (LR), Davis (W), Grazer (LR). HR — Wiedenbein (W), Stone (W), Martinez (LR).

C. J.

Golf

3-88-93

Tops down UALR in baseball

A Daily News report

Western Kentucky University's baseball team scored six runs in the first three innings and held off Arkansas-Little Rock for a 7-4 win Sunday in Sun Belt Conference action.

Mark Phannensteil and Clay Wiedenbein slapped home runs for the Hilltoppers, and James Davis had three hits in five at-bats.

Matt Cook (4-1) pitched 7½ innings to get the win on the mound, while Mark Lowther (1-6) took the loss for UALR.

Golf

Western's men's golf team finished 15th in the 22-team UK-Johnny Owens Invitational at Kearney Hills Golf Links in Lexington.

Marshall University won the event with a total of 896, and Western totaled 943. Kentucky was second in the event, and Louisville finished sixth.

Ball State's Darrett Brinker was the individual medalist was a total

of 217, one shot above par, and Western's top individual was Joe Daly. He tied for 39th place with a 233. Other Western golfers and their scores were: Brian Harris, 236; Kelvin Burgin, 236; Bryan Baysinger, 241; and John Stiles, 243.

In the Lady Topper Invitational at Hartland Municipal Golf Course, Northern Illinois won the team title with a two-day total of 625 and NIU's Shelley Wendels was the medalist with a 151.

Western's Red Team finished in sixth place with a 653. Jennifer Moore was ninth overall after carding a 159, and Annerose Groot had a 163. Sandy Stokley's 165, Jennifer McGohon's 166, and Allyson Hartley's 167 rounded out the team's scoring.

Another Western team tied for 10th place with a 679. Leslie Diedericks, Stacey Newman and Danielle Barker each had 169, Michelle Higgins recorded a 172, and Kate Hitchcock finished with a 184.

Baseball Tops belt Louisville, off to best start since 1988

By ERIC WOEHLE 3-31-88
The Daily News

To each his own wake-up call.

Western Kentucky University's baseball coach, Joel Murrie, said it might have rained on the way home from Jacksonville, where his team lost three straight Sun Belt Conference games March 19-21.

"A good ballclub doesn't lose three in a row," he said.

The Hilltoppers' senior first baseman, Bill Weyers, pegs the first game back from the Jacksonville road trip — a 17-3 loss at Vanderbilt on March 23.

"We were beaten pretty badly,"

he said. "That one opened our eyes."

Whatever the impetus, the Tops are rolling — five straight wins, including a 9-6 victory over Louisville at Nick Denes Field on Tuesday.

The 14-7 overall record in the best through 21 games for a Western baseball team since 1988. That season, the Tops finished 43-21 — the second-most wins ever posted in a season by Western.

"And we've only had six at home," Murrie said. "We've done this the hard way."

On Tuesday, Western won because of five brilliant innings of

pitching by a walk-on and some clutch late hurrying by a prize recruit.

Shaun Smith, a junior left-hander, transferred to the Hill from the University of Evansville. He's playing without a grant-in-aid.

Murrie's line on Smith before the season: "very good stuff, but he seems to be his own worst enemy on the mound. Lack of consistency is the only thing keeping Shaun from being a top-of-the-line pitcher for this team."

Against Louisville, Smith gave up

two hits, two walks and no runs in five innings of work.

"It was a great outing for the kid," Murrie said. "Under different circumstances, we might have left him out there and given him the chance to finish it off. But today we wanted to do it with depth."

Western had a 5-0 lead when Smith was pulled for Dean Carpenter. A 3-run home run by Louisville's Darren Oppel tightened the game in the top of the sixth. The Tops widened the gap to 6-3 in the bottom of the inning, but there were anxiety moments in the seventh.

With one run in, one out and Cardinals on second and third, Murrie summoned Doug Smyly, a 6-foot-5 right-hander who was snagged from Valencia (Fla.) Community College to be Western's closer.

Smyly's first pitch was lined by Louisville's Tucker Howard down the third-base line and into the glove of Western's Gus Moen. Moen rushed to the base, but the umpire ruled the runner safe on a close play.

Smyly's second pitch was punched meekly by Charlie Allen to Western shortstop Clay Wiedenbein, who threw to Weyers for the third out.

"In that situation, I'm thinking, 'OK, let's get out of this with just one more run or at the most two, at they can only tie the game,'" Murrie said. "Instead, Doug sits the down. He did a great job."

Weyers' two-run double was the biggest hit in a three-run Western seventh that stretched the lead to 7-4. Smyly found trouble in the ninth giving up two runs before striking out Shawn Harkins to end the game with runners on second and third.

Western's win streak will have wait until the weekend. Today game at Tennessee-Martin has been rained out. The Tops' next action will be a Sun Belt series at Darden Field with Arkansas-Little Rock — a double-header at noon Saturday the finale at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Western swept the Trojans in Little Rock last weekend, improving its league record to 3-3.

Louisville 000 003 102-9 10
Western 041 001 30X-9 11

Batteries—(Louisville) Fleming, Hobbs (2); Silt (7) and Owens; (Western) Smith, Carpenter (6). Smyly and Thomas. Wits-Smith, 1-1; Loss—Fleming. Save—Smyly. 1. Errors—(Louisville) Oppel; (Western) Moen 2, Phillips. Double play—Western 1. Left on base—Louisville 5; Western 6. Double—(Louisville) Oppel 2, Meyers 1; (Western) Stone, Thomas, Weyers 2. Home runs—(Louisville) Oppel, Stolen bases—(Western) Jackson Moen. Attendance—408.

Baseball Tops belt Louisville, off to best start since 1988

ERIC WOEHLE 3-3/-2-3
Daily News

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two hits, two walks and no runs in five innings of work.

"It was a great outing for the kid," Murrie said. "Under different circumstances, we might have left him out there and given him the chance to finish it off. But today we wanted to do it with depth."

Western had a 5-0 lead when Smith was pulled for Dean Carpenter. A 3-run home run by Louisville's Darren Opel tightened the game in the top of the sixth. The Tops widened the gap to 6-3 in the bottom of the inning, but there were anxiety moments in the seventh.

With one run in, one out and Cardinals on second and third, Murrie summoned Doug Smyly, a 6-foot-5 right-hander who was snagged from Valencia (Fla.) Community College to be Western's closer.

Smyly's first pitch was lined by Louisville's Tucker Howard down the third-base line and into the glove of Western's Gus Moen. Moen rushed to the base, but the umpire ruled the runner safe on a close play.

Smyly's second pitch was punched meekly by Charlie Allen to Western shortstop Clay Wiedenbein, who threw to Weyers for the third out.

"In that situation, I'm thinking, 'OK, let's get out of this with just one more run or at the most two, and they can only tie the game,'" Murrie said. "Instead, Doug sits them down. He did a great job."

Weyers' two-run double was the biggest hit in a three-run Western seventh that stretched the lead to 9-4. Smyly found trouble in the ninth, giving up two runs before striking out Shawn Hankins to end the game with runners on second and third.

Western's win streak will have to wait until the weekend. Today's game at Tennessee-Martin has been rained out. The Tops' next action will be a Sun Belt series at Denes Field with Arkansas-Little Rock — a double-header at noon Saturday, the finale at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Western swept the Trojans in Little Rock last weekend, improving its league record to 3-3.

Louisville 000 003 102-6 10 1
Western 041 001 30X-9 11 3
Batteries—(Louisville) Rensing, Hobbs (2), Stitt (7) and Owens; (Western) Smith, Carpenter (6), Smyly and Thomas. Win—Smith, 1-1. Loss—Rensing. Save—Smyly.
1. Errors—(Louisville) Opel; (Western) Moen 2, Phillips.
Double play—Western 1, Left on base—Louisville 9, Western 6. Doubles—(Louisville) Opel 2, Weyers 2 (Western) Stone, Thomas, Weyers 2. Home run—(Louisville) Opel; Stolen bases—(Western) Jackson, Moen. Attendance—408.

Baseball

At Bowling Green
 Louisville 000 003 102-8 10-1
 Western Ky. 041 001 30x-9 11-3
 Renning, Hoobe (2), Shilt (7) and Owens
 Smith, Carpenter (8), Smyth (7) and Thomas
 as. WP — Smith (1st), LF — Renning (1-7)
 2B — Meyers (1), Oppel (1), 2 HR — Oppel
 Thomas (1st), Meyers (1st), 2 HR — Oppel
 (L), Records — Western 1-7, Louisville 8-
 13.

3-21-23 mid

DN 4-2-83

Baseball Tops host UALR for league series

Western Kentucky University's baseball team hosts Arkansas-Little Rock this weekend for a three-game Sun Belt Conference series beginning Saturday.

The Hilltoppers (14-7 overall) are fourth in the league's East Division with a 3-3 Sun Belt record. The three wins came last weekend at UALR. The Trojans (14-17 overall) are 0-6 in the conference.

"You don't want to think in terms of a three-game sweep because it puts undue pressure on yourself," Western coach Joel Murrie said. "You just want to take a step-by-step approach to these things."

Western is led in hitting by senior center-fielder Ryan Hepworth, who has been slowed with a muscle strain behind his right knee, with a .449 average. Senior first baseman Bill Weyers is batting .432 with 22 runs batted in, and junior shortstop Clay Wiedenbein, who had one home run in his first two years on the Hill, leads the Tops with six this season.

Gary Thiedig, a 6-foot-5 junior first baseman, leads the Trojans with a .371 batting average and six home runs.

Saturday's double-header at Nick Denes Field begins at noon. The series finale will be at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Baseball Tops build big lead, hang on for 11-7 league win

By ERIC WOEHLE

The Daily News

4-5-93

Each Hilltopper in the first-inning batting order appeared to have something to prove — two somethings, in fact, for four of them.

A five-hit, eight-run first inning pushed Western Kentucky University's baseball team to an 11-7 win Sunday over Arkansas-Little Rock — the Sun Belt Conference team that had beaten the Tops twice Saturday at Nick Denes Field. All nine Tops batted in the inning, and four of them had two at-bats.

"We've been getting the hits, but we haven't been grouping them," said Western second baseman Chris Phillips, who walked and scored a run in the first inning. "Today, we wanted to come out and achieve something, which I think we did in the first inning."

"After two games like we had yesterday," Western coach Joel Murrie said, "you need a mental edge. That's why the first inning was important, and because of how the rest of the game played out."

The Tops held an 11-2 lead after

seven innings. But the lead — like their 5-2 advantage after eight innings of a 6-5 loss to UALR in Saturday's first game — was not safe.

In the eighth inning, between strikeouts, Hilltopper reliever Shaun Smith walked the bases loaded. He was pulled from the mound for Doug Smyly, who walked three runs in without recording an out before being replaced.

Robb Taylor threw two balls to

Continued On
continued from Page 9

Trojan catcher Brooks Roybal before striking him out to end the inning with the bases loaded and Western up 11-5.

After striking out the first hitter he faced in the ninth, Taylor also found trouble — walking two and allowing three consecutive singles to centerfield. UALR's Chris Martinez flied out to center before Murrie summoned Andy Alepra, a left-hander, from the bullpen.

"The wind was coming out of right field, and a right-handed hitter was coming up," Murrie said. "So we wanted a left-hander to throw the breaking ball and, hopefully, make him pop it up down the left side."

With bases full, Gary Thiedig, UALR's leading hitter, watched strike one, dribbled Alepra's second pitch foul down the first-base line, then looped the third pitch to Western third-baseman John Eglich for the final out.

Alepra's save was the sopho-

more's third of the season. Dean Carpenter (3-1), a senior right-hander who pitched five scoreless innings, was the winner. Left-fielder Greg Slone and catcher James Davis each had three hits for the Tops.

Despite its difficulties during the weekend series, Murrie is not overly worried about his relief corps.

"Guys like Taylor and Smyly need to get the ball twice between conference games," Murrie said. "It's a little different with starters, but relievers need work. We just need to play."

Western's women golfers win; men place second

A Daily News report

Western Kentucky University's women's golf team won the Eagle's Nest Classic in Somerset, while the men's team placed second in the Oak Meadow Intercollegiate in Evansville, Ind.

In the women's event, Western, paced by Sandy Stokely's second-

If the weather cooperates, the Tops (15-9 overall, 4-5 in the Sun Belt) will get their chance this week: Eastern Kentucky visits for a 3 p.m. game Tuesday and Tennessee-Martin plays in Denes at 3 p.m. Wednesday before the weekend Jacksonville series.

Arkansas-Little Rock.....020 000 032- 7 13 1
Western Kentucky.....810 002 00X-11 11 2
Win-Carpenter, 3-1. Loss-Hankins, 4-1. Save-Alepra, 3. Errors-(UALR) Clark; (Western) Eglich, Wiedenbein. Doubles-(UALR) Thiedig; (Western) Davis, Slone, Weyers. Triples-(Western) Phillips, Wiedenbein. Home run-(UALR) Thiedig. Stolen bases-(Western) Eglich, Pfannestiel, Phillips, Slone. Attendance-317.

place 160, won with a 656, three ahead of Alabama-Birmingham. A second Western squad, led by Danielle Barker's 167, was sixth.

In the men's tourney, Bryan Baysinger won the individual crown with a 142 and led Western to a 593 team score — seven strokes behind champion Ball State.

Baseball rally point after score

By ERIC WOHLER

The Daily News 4-7-93

Mental mistakes rub Joel Murrie like pebbles in his shoe. He can withstand the irritation so long as he must kick it loose.

By the middle of the fifth inning Tuesday at Nick Denes Field, Western Kentucky University's baseball coach had taken all he could.

"I was upset," Murrie said. "His Hilltoppers had beaten Eastern Kentucky 9-6. 'We weren't in control of the game.'"

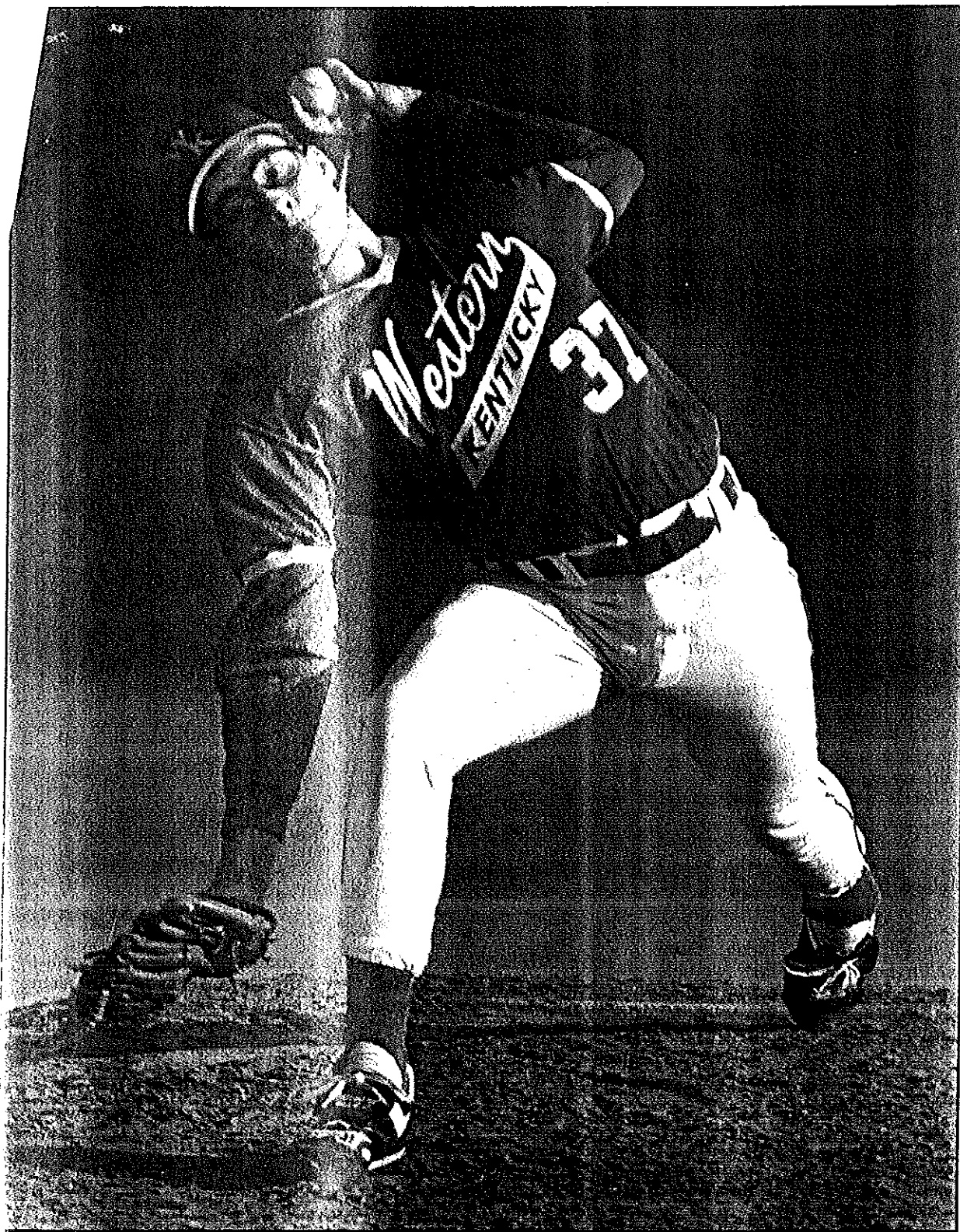
Western was trailing 5-4. In the top of the fifth when a throw from the outfield dribbled untouched through the infield, and both pitcher Andy Alepra and catcher Tom Thomas chased after the ball, Jim Richmond, who dashed home from third, left the plate unprotected. The one who dashed home from third, Jim Richmond, was safe standing.

Offensively, the Tops had been equally careless. In the second inning, they scored two runs but bases full when Greg Slone flied to center. In the third, one score. But again bases were full when Western took its final out — Jackson caught stealing home.

Between halves of the fifth inning, Murrie scolded his players.

"When it comes to the mental part of the game, I'm a purist," said later. "You've got to beat the game. You've got to know how to play the game and then execute."

"When you're on the golf course, you don't pull out a driver when you're in a sand trap. If you do, you don't know the game, and you shouldn't be playing."



Staff Color Photo by Joe Imel

DN 4-7-93

ANDY ALEPRA unwinds during the Hilltoppers' 9-6 win over Eastern at Nick Denes Field on Tuesday.

Baseball Tops rally past EKU after scolding

By ERIC WOHLER

The Daily News

4-7-93

Mental mistakes rub Joel Murrie like pebbles in his shoe. He can only withstand the irritation so long before he must kick it loose.

By the middle of the fifth inning Tuesday at Nick Denes Field, Western Kentucky University's baseball coach had taken all he could.

"I was upset," Murrie said after his Hilltoppers had beaten Eastern Kentucky 9-6. "We weren't taking control of the game."

Western was trailing 5-4. Eastern's go-ahead run had scored in the top of the fifth when a throw from the outfield dribbled untouched through the infield, and both pitcher Andy Alepra and catcher Sean Thomas chased after the ball and left the plate unprotected. The Colonel who dashed home from third, Jim Richmond, was safe standing.

Offensively, the Tops had been equally careless. In the second inning, they scored two runs but left bases full when Greg Slone flied out to center. In the third, one scored. But again bases were full when Western took its final out — Paul Jackson caught stealing home.

Between halves of the fifth inning, Murrie scolded his players.

"When it comes to the mental part of the game, I'm a purist," he said later. "You've got to beat the game. You've got to know how to play the game and then execute."

"When you're on the golf course, you don't pull out a driver when you're in a sand trap. If you do, you don't know the game, and you shouldn't be playing."

WESTERN 9, EASTERN 6

Eastern Kentucky003 120 000—8 10 6
Western Kentucky021 023 10X—9 6 1
Win—Alepra, 1-1. Loss—Combs, 0-3. Errors—
(Eastern) Minacci, Prieto 3, Stein, Barthol; (Western)
Jackson. Doubles—(Eastern) Gilbert, Winn; (Western)
Weyers. Triple—(Western) Thomas. Stolen bases—
(Western) Hepworth, Jackson, Slone, Weyers.
Attendance—377.

Western (16-9) squandered another opportunity after tying the game in the fifth when Ryan Hepworth watched strike three for the third out with bases loaded. But the Tops took advantage of one in the sixth.

Western had taken a 7-6 lead. With runners on first and second, Thomas — a first-year Top after transferring from Valencia (Fla.) Community College — lined a hit to deep center. Eastern's Greg Gilbert leaped, but the ball sailed over his glove and off the fence. Then Gilbert bobbled the ball before throwing in.

"It was a triple off the bat," Jackson told Thomas after the game. "Say that."

"Triple off the bat? With my wheels? That should have been a double," Thomas said. "I was just glad to get the hit."

The three-run cushion was plenty for Alepra, the left-hander who had relieved Eric Morrow in the fifth inning. After allowing the run in his first inning of work, Alepra held Eastern to a single and a walk. He hit one batter with a pitch. He finished with eight strikeouts and his

first victory of the season.

"I found a groove," said Alepra, a sophomore from Gillespie, Ill. "I was throwing pitches for strikes — that's the main thing."

Tennessee-Martin visits Denes Field at 3 p.m. today, Western's final tune-up before this weekend's series with Sun Belt Conference East Division-leader Jacksonville.

Staff Color Photo by Joe Imel

DN 4-7-93

9-6 win over Eastern at Nick Denes Field on Tuesday.

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Tops use six pitchers to blank UT-Martin

By ERIC WOHLER

The Daily News 4-8-93

Western Kentucky University baseball coach Joel Murrie treated Tennessee-Martin to a sampler platter of his pitching staff, and the Pacers choked.

Six Hilltopper pitchers — none of them worked more than two innings — combined to blank UTM 4-0 at Nick Denes Field on Wednesday.

"What a cumulative effort," Murrie said. "Every pitcher threw well. Each one challenged the one in front of them by saying, 'OK, now you go do the job.'"

Matt Cook started. His line: one inning, no hits, no walks, no runs, two strikeouts and an early shower.

Up next, Dean Carpenter: three hits across two innings. He was followed by Greg Monelle (two innings, a hit), Shaun Smith (a walk and a pair of strikeouts in one frame), Doug Smyly (two innings, three hits, a walk) and Robb Taylor (a strikeout and a hit in the ninth).

It was a predetermined work schedule, Murrie said.

"Pitching sets the tone for everything else," Murrie said. "When you pitch aggressively and don't walk people, your defense will do the job."

The most antsy moments came in the eighth inning. With one out, Hunter McLemore was on second

and Mark Ostby on third. DeWayne Smith watched Smyly's third strike for the second out, then Hal Williams shot a grounder toward Western third baseman Gus Moen. Moen snagged it on the run and barely missed stride to the dugout as he tagged McLemore for the third out.

The Toppers' offense was not as impressive. Moen scored the only run Western would need when he came home from third on Ryan Hepworth's ground out in the third inning. Three runs in the sixth — two coming in on a Paul Jackson single — allowed the pitchers a bit of comfort.

Jackson had a pair of singles in three at-bats. He was intentionally walked with runners on second and third in the seventh.

The right-fielder from LaGrange

might be lifting himself from the slump that has marred the first half of his senior season. A first-team All-Sun Belt Conference selection in 1992 after leading the league in runs batted in and ranking among the leaders in home runs and average, Jackson was hitting .228 before Wednesday's game.

"I had a lot of preseason hype, and I admit that it might have gotten in my head a little bit," Jackson said. "... Now I'm being a little more patient at the plate. I'm staying back on the ball and seeing the pitch a little better. It's a matter of letting the pitch come to you. But I still have a lot of work to do."

Designated hitter Mark Pfannenstiel had three hits; Jackson, left-fielder Barry Nesbitt and first baseman Bill Weyers each two to account for Western's nine against

UTM.

"I would like to have seen a better performance offensively," Murrie said. "But today was pitcher's day."

Rain and snow limited Western's early schedule, but the Tops are playing more regularly now. And that's benefiting the pitching staff, said Carpenter, a senior right-hander from Winslow, Ark., who was Wednesday's winner.

"More innings help," he said. "We were having a lot of rainouts, and that makes it hard to get consistent."

Jacksonville is in town Saturday and Sunday for a three-game Sun Belt series. The Dolphins lead the East Division with a 6-3 league mark. Western (17-9 overall, 4-5 in the Sun Belt) is fourth behind South Alabama (5-3) and Arkansas State (5-4).

Western lost three games at Jacksonville last month.

"But things are a lot different,"

Carpenter said. "We're getting to play now."

"And that means something else to Murrie.

"We have no excuses," he said.

Tennessee-Martin.....000 000 000-0 8 1
Western Kentucky.....001 003 00X-4 9 2
Win-Carpenter, 3-1. Loss-Payne, 1-4. Errors-
(UTM) Barger; (Western) Monelle, Wiedenbein. Dou-
bles-(UTM) Ostby; (Western) Pfannenstiel. Stolen
bases-(Western) Jackson, Moen, Pfannenstiel. Re-
cords-UTM 6-18-1, Western 17-9. Attendance-455.

Baseball Tops host Dolphins

Western Kentucky University's baseball team begins a three-game, Sun Belt Conference series with Jacksonville at Nick Denes Field at 3 p.m. today.

Jacksonville leads the Sun Belt's East Division with a 6-3 leading record, including three wins last month over Western, which is fourth in the East with a 4-5 mark.

Senior first baseman Bill Weyers is hitting .433 for Western (17-9 overall). Sophomore left-handed reliever Andy Alepra leads the Tops with a 2.50 earned-run average.

Games are also scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. If today's game is rained out, a double-header will be played at noon Saturday.

b 12
4-9-70

Toppers gain SBC sweep of Jacksonville

By EUGENE EMBRY
The Daily News

4 11 93

Western Kentucky University's baseball team worked overtime twice on Saturday.

The results of that work — extra-inning victories over Jacksonville at Nick Denes Field — helped boost the Hilltoppers' chances of extending their work schedule for a trip to the Sun Belt Conference playoffs once the regular season ends.

"We should have executed more early, but they gave us enough chances to hang around and we finally did something with it," said sophomore catcher James Davis, a Franklin-Simpson High School graduate whose eighth-inning double drove in Bill Weyers with the winning run in a 3-2 second-game decision.

Junior left fielder Barry Nesbitt, who had one extra-base hit — a double — in 21 previous games, bounced a home run off the top of the left-field wall in the 10th inning of the first game for a 9-8 win over the Dolphins, who entered Saturday's play leading the conference's Eastern Division.

Western trailed Jacksonville by two games entering the series, and Nesbitt said the Hilltoppers had a short meeting to talk about the doubleheader after Friday's game was suspended because of rain.

"After we were rained out Friday, we decided we had to come in and win both of these games," Nesbitt said.

Western nearly lost both.

"I think early in the season we weren't playing complete games, and today we proved the old adage that it's not over until it's over," Western coach Joel Murrie said. "That's maturity, and that's what it takes to win and be successful."

In the first game, Western trailed 8-7 with two outs in the ninth inning. Davis' bunt single then brought home Sean Thomas, who had three hits in the game, to set up Nesbitt's game-winning homer one inning later.

In the second game, the Hilltoppers were down to their final two outs when Ryan Hepworth singled home Clay Wiedenbein. One inning later, Davis delivered the run-scoring double.

"This is big-time," Davis said when asked about the importance of the games. "This is probably the



Staff Color Photo

WESTERN'S Clay Wiedenbein gets caught in a rundown during the Hilltoppers' doubleheader sweep of Jacksonville on Saturday. Western is 19-9, 6-5 in the Sun Belt Con-

ference East Division. The Hilltoppers and Dolphins conclude their divisional three-game series at 7 p.m. today at Nick Denes Bowling Green.

SBC sweep of Jacksonville



Staff Color Photo by Joe Imel

WESTERN'S Clay Wiedenbein gets caught in a rundown during the Hilltoppers' doubleheader sweep of Jacksonville on Saturday. Western is 19-9, 6-5 in the Sun Belt Con-

ference East Division. The Hilltoppers and Dolphins conclude their divisional three-game series at 1 p.m. today at Nick Denes Field in Bowling Green.

most important series of the season up to now."

In addition to the clutch hitting, Western's pitching staff shined after a rocky start.

"Our pitching staff came on strong and really shut down a pretty good ballclub," Murrie said.

Dean Carpenter, a senior, relieved Darin Bernhard and pitched the final seven innings of the first game. Carpenter gave up only two runs to earn his fourth victory in five decisions.

Western sophomore Andy Alepra, the second-game starter, gave up two runs in four innings, and junior Doug Smyly did not let a Dolphin cross the plate in his four innings of relief work.

The three-game series concludes at 1 p.m. today at Denes Field. Western (19-9 overall, 6-5 in the Sun Belt) is tied with Jacksonville (22-16, 6-5) in the league standings. South Alabama, which defeated Arkansas-Little Rock on Saturday in the first game of a doubleheader, is

WESTERN 9, JACKSONVILLE 8

Jacksonville	021 300 020 0-8 9 3
Western Kentucky	023 200 001 1-9 10 0
WP	- Carpenter (4-1), LP - Ramsey (3-2), 2B - Hamilton (JU), Jackson (WKU), Phillips (WKU), HR - Holin 2 (JU), Peterson (JU), Jackson (WKU), Nesbitt (WKU), SB - Escala (JU), Marrilia (JU), Nesbitt (WKU), HBP - Peterson (by Carpenter), T - 3:05. A - 326.

WESTERN 3, JACKSONVILLE 2

Jacksonville	001 100 00-2 7 0
Western Kentucky	001 000 11-3 10 0
WP	- Smyly (3-0), LP - Arguto (4-5), 2B - Marrilia (JU), Davis (WKU), Nesbitt (WKU), HR - Holin (JU), SB - Halpern (JU), Nesbitt (WKU), T - 2:25. A - 415.

6-3 in the conference. Arkansas State is 5-4.

"It's no more important than (Saturday's) games were, and no less important," Murrie said of today's Western-Jacksonville series finale. "I think you've got to play the game the same way every day out. This should be no reason to let down or no reason to get too excited when we come to the ballpark (Sunday).

"It should be let's go out and play our game and enjoy doing it."

At Bowling Green, Ky.
 Jacksonville .. 021 300 020 0-8 9 3
 Western Ky. .. 023 200 001 1-9 10 0
 McGrane, Knobloch (3), Santoro (4), Dally
 (4), Ramsey (10) and Holin. Bernhard, Car-
 penter (4) and Thomas. W — Carpenter (4-
 1). L — Ramsey (3-2). 2B — Hamilton (J).
 Jackson (W), Phillips (W), HR — Holin (J) 2.
 Peterson (J), Jackson (W), Nesbitt (W).
 Jacksonville 001 100 00-2 7 0
 Western Kentucky 001 000 11-3 10 0
 Argulo and Holin. Alepra, Smyth (5) and
 Davis. W — Smyth (3-0). L — Arguto (4-5).
 2B — Marmilla (J), Davis (W), Nesbitt (W).
 3B — Holin (J). HR — Nesbitt (W), Halpern
 (J). Records — Jacksonville 22-16, Western
 Kentucky 19-9. C.J. 4-11-93
 At Morehead, Ky.

Baseball C.J. 4-12-93
 At Bowling Green, Ky.
 Jacksonville . 000 030 000- 3 13 5
 W. Kentucky (10) 01 102 14x-19 18 1
 Slater, Tongue (1), Thomas (1), Hitchens
 (8), Neo (7), Johnson (8) and Holin. Cook,
 Taylor (8) and Thomas, Davis, Lawrence. W
 — Cook (5-2). L — Slater. 2B — Escala (J).
 Johnson (J), Moen (WKU), Nesbitt (WKU) 2.
 Weyers (WKU). HR — Weyers (WKU). Rec-
 ords — Jacksonville 22-17, 6-6 Sun Belt;
 Western Kentucky 20-9, 7-5 Sun Belt.
 At Iowa City, Iowa

Baseball Tops sink Dolphins, sweep series

By ERIC WOEHLE
The Daily News

4-12-83

For the second straight Sunday, Western Kentucky University's baseball team made a case for the skunk rule at the expense of a visiting Sun Belt Conference foe.

The Hilltoppers put Arkansas-Little Rock in an 8-0 first-inning hole before winning 11-7 on April 3 at Nick Denes Field. Then on Sunday, Jacksonville fell behind 10-0 after one before having to wait through a 19-3 laughter to start the long trip home to Florida.

"That's the offensive attack we've anticipated since last fall," Western coach Joel Murrie said.

The Dolphins failed to reach base in the top of the first inning, then watched Western hitters make 15 trips to the plate in the bottom half. The Tops collected seven hits and four walks in the inning. One Western batter reached on an error.

Western left-fielder Barry Nesbitt had a pair of hits, two runs scored and three runs batted in before six players in the Dolphin batting order had logged an at-bat.

"We had our minds set on winning these three," Nesbitt said of the series. "We knew we needed them if we wanted to go to the (Sun Belt) tournament."

Now the Tops (20-9 overall, 7-5 in the conference) are solidly in the playoff picture. Three teams from each of the Sun Belt's two divisions advance, and Western is second in the East behind South Alabama.

Jacksonville (22-17, 6-6) swept Western in a three-game series last month.

"We knew they were a good team, but I think we're playing better right now," Topper center-fielder Ryan Hepworth said. "Also, after we beat them like we did yesterday. I think they were a little down today."

In both games Saturday — one-run, extra-inning Hilltopper victories — Western trailed as late as the seventh inning. If the games sapped Jacksonville's confidence, they had the opposite impact on Western, particularly its pitchers.

"We needed to win two close games like that," said assistant coach Dan Mosier, who works mostly with the Topper pitchers. "Before, because of the way some games came out early in the season, we had guys who were looking up at the scoreboard in close games and saying, 'Oh, God, here we go again.'"

Of course, after the first inning Sunday, the scoreboard offered only good news for Western pitchers.

Matt Cook, a junior right-hander, won his fifth game by holding Jacksonville to three runs and nine hits in seven innings. Robb Taylor, another junior right-hander, held the Dolphins scoreless in the final two innings.

In the meantime, Western's offense continued its show: single runs in the third and fourth innings, two in the sixth, another in the seventh.

Things were going so well that in the eighth, Bill Weyers — a 6-foot-3, 210-pounder who had homered an inning earlier — reached base when his bunt rolled to a stop midway up and slightly inside the third-base line. His hit loaded the bases, and he eventually scored one of four Western runs in the inning.

"This is something to build on," the senior first baseman said of the sweep. "But we have to keep building."

Kentucky is next. The Tops play in Lexington at 5 p.m. CDT Tuesday.

Jacksonville 0 00 030 000— 3 13 5
Western Kentucky 10 01 102 144—19 18 1
Wt.—Cook 5-2, Loss—Stier. Error—(Jacksonville) Halpern, Holm, Martilla, Paterson, Williams. (Western) Moen. Doubles—(Jacksonville) Escoda, Johnson. (Western) Moen, Nesbitt 2. Weyers, Home run—(Western) Weyers. Stolen base—(Western) Nesbitt. Time—3:10. Attendance—366.

Baseball Tops on six-game win streak, face 'Cats in Lexington

Cy Cole and Jen-
had two hits and
Crain drove in a
to 3-4. East plays
Wednesday.
..... 319 23-18 13 3

Steward said. "It's the same old
story: we're not being patient at the
plate."
Central hosts Franklin-Simpson in
a doubleheader today.
Warren Central 000 000 0-0 6 0
Edmonson County 001 000 X-1 3 2
WP—Stratton, LP—Manning.

A Daily News report 4-13-93 .390 and .353, respectively.

Western Kentucky University's baseball team, a winner in six straight games, plays Kentucky in Lexington at 5 p.m. CDT today.

"They've been ranked, they're in a great conference (the Southeastern), they have a great ballpark, good fans" Hilltopper coach Joel Murrie said. "But it's just another challenge."

Today's game will be the first of five straight outside the Sun Belt Conference for Western (20-9). The Tops play at Marshall at 4 p.m. CDT Wednesday and return home to host Middle Tennessee State at 3 p.m. Thursday, a doubleheader with Morehead State at noon Saturday and the series finale with Morehead at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Senior first baseman Bill Weyers continues to lead the team in hitting with a .436 average. He also has four home runs and a team-high 27 runs batted in. Catchers Sean Thomas and James Davis are hitting

Western's hitting, considered the team's strength entering the season, had perplexed Murrie until the weekend series with Jacksonville when the Toppers won 9-8, 3-2 and 19-3. The one-run games were both won in extra innings.

"As a coach, I understand that hitting comes and goes," he said after Sunday's 19-run output. "But we have an abundance of talented players in the batting order, and there's no way our whole team should go sour at once."

"But now guys are picking each other up. People are coming off the bench and doing the job. That's the nucleus you must have to build championship teams."

Golf

The men's team took 11th out of 18 schools at the Marshall Invitational over the weekend.
Western carded a two-day total of

910 in the 54-hole event, 32 strokes off the pace set by winner Ohio State.

Bryan Baysinger was Western's top performer. The Glasgow native took third place with a 4-over-par 217 (72-73-72).

Ohio State's Kurt Sanders won with a 216.

Other Hilltoppers included Joe Daly (228), Kelvin Burgin (241), John Stiles (229) and Robert Duke (238).

Western was to start play in the Blazer-Bentbrook Invitational today in Birmingham, Ala.

Tennis

The Lady Toppers, coming off their first win of the season Saturday against Centre, play Cumberland in Lebanon, Tenn., at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The next home match for Western (1-5) will be 10:30 a.m. April 17 against Transylvania.

Baseball Tops lose at UK, face Marshall

Western Kentucky University's baseball team lost 15-9 at Kentucky on Tuesday, breaking a six-game win streak for the Hilltoppers.

"It was just one of those nights when they hit the ball extremely well and we hit the ball extremely well," Western assistant coach Dan Mosier said. "But they hit it just a little bit better."

Kentucky is 20-11. The Tops (20-10) play Marshall in Huntington, W. Va., at 4 p.m. CDT today before returning to Nick Denes Field for a 3 p.m. Thursday game with Middle Tennessee State.

Meanwhile, Western's men's golf team was in 16th place after Tuesday's opening 27 holes of the 18-team Bent Brook-Blazer Invitational in Birmingham, Ala. Kelvin Burgin, a sophomore from Somerset, shot three-over-par 74 on the first 18 holes and 36 on the next nine for a 110 total, leading Western to a 450 total.

Auburn led entering today's final 27 holes with a 426 total.

DN, 4-14-91, 3

Wiedenbein drives in three; Toppers win

Shortstop Clay Wiedenbein slammed a home run and batted in three runs as Western Kentucky University's baseball team rocked Marshall 8-2 in Huntington, W. Va., on Wednesday.

Wiedenbein, a junior from Milford, Ohio, picked up two hits in five at-bats as Western climbed to 21-10 with its seventh win in its last eight games. Left fielder Greg Slone went three for five, and second baseman Chris Phillips added two hits for the Hilltoppers.

Pitcher Darin Bernhard (4-2) struck out five and allowed on five hits on the way to a complete-game victory. Marshall is 10-19.

Western faces Middle Tennessee State at 3 p.m. Friday at Nick Denes Field — a game postponed from today because of rain. *DU 4-15-88*

Sports beat

D N H-16-93

Busy days ahead for Western baseball

Western Kentucky University's baseball team has six days of non-conference tests in front of it.

At 3 p.m. today, the Hilltoppers face Middle Tennessee State at Nick Denes Field. Western hosts Morehead State for a doubleheader at noon Saturday and a single game at 1 p.m. Sunday. The Tops play at MTSU at 7:30 p.m. Monday, at home against Evansville at 3 p.m. Tuesday and at Evansville at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

The three foes are some of Western's oldest rivals. The Tops lead all three series: 86-70-2 over Middle, 23-20 over Morehead and 30-21-2 over Evansville.

Western (21-10) returns to Sun Belt Conference play April 24-25 with a three-game series at East Division-leader South Alabama.

Hilltopper first baseman Bill Weyers, a senior from Kimberly, Wisc., is the Sun Belt's leading hitter with a .436 average. He ranks 18th nationally. The country's leader is Mike Berger of St. Louis at .479.

Speedy throw saves Hilltoppers for split with Morehead State

By ERIC WOEHLE
The Daily News 4-19-73

Joel Murrie had watched two straight hard-luck losses by his Hilltoppers. As Morehead State's Adam Smith lined a hit to the gap in right-center field, Murrie thought he might be seeing the beginnings of a third.

"I was thinking the game," Western Kentucky University's baseball coach said.

Down 8-6 with runners on first and second, Morehead's Smith launched Wade Taylor's pitch between Western outfielders Greg Stone and Paul Jackson. Stone tracked down the ball from center, Morehead's Chad Blackwell, the lead runner, scored as Stone threw in to the infield. Morehead's Donnie Hackworth rounded third as Western second baseman Chris Phillips caught Stone's throw and relayed home to catcher James

Davis.

"I knew we had a chance because Stone got the ball in pretty quick from the outfield," Phillips said. "I just wanted to make a good enough throw to where we could either get him out at home or cut it off and hold him at third."

Davis caught the ball slightly up and behind the third-base line from home. Hackworth stumbled, making it an easy out call for the home-plate umpire.

"There's no substitute for speed and accuracy on your throws," Murrie said. "Of course, when you have experienced people handling the ball in those situations like we do, I actually consider that something of a routine play. I expect us to make that play."

Stone caught a lazy fly for the third out, and Western had earned an 8-7 win and split of Saturday's double-header at Nick Denes Field.

Murrie's 450th coaching victory

— all of them at Western — broke a two-game, two-day losing streak for the Tops. On Friday, Middle Tennessee State rallied from a 7-3 deficit to win 8-7 at Denes Field. In the first game Saturday, Morehead built a 6-1 lead then staved off the Tops for a 7-6 victory.

"A split's better than what it could have been," Murrie said. "Thank goodness we kept the pressure on them to score every inning."

The Tops scored in the first five frames of the seven-inning second game with Morehead. Eight Western batters shared 13 hits; Stone, Phillips, left-fielder Mark Pfannenstiel, first baseman Bill Weyers and shortstop Clay Wiedenbein had two each.

Editorial
Section

Left-handed starter Shawn Smith improved to 2-1 on the season. Taylor, a right-hander, earned his third save.

Morehead was down 5-1 after two innings, 7-3 after four and 8-5 heading into the ninth.

"They are a very scrappy team," Phillips said. "They came up there swinging the bats, doing the little things you have to do to move guys up and stay in the game."

Morehead's Jason Chandler gave up one earned run in 5 2/3 innings of pitching for the victory in the first game. Western rallied in the ninth — pinch-runner John Eglich scoring on Phillips' single and cutting the Morehead lead to one with one out — but Wiedenbein was caught stealing to end the game.

Western (22-12) and Morehead (19-12) will settle the series at 1 p.m. today at Denes Field.

Friday

Middle Tennessee State 001 201 310-8 11 4
Western Kentucky 041 200 000-7 10 2
Win-Rickman, 1-0; Loss-Smyly, 3-1; Save-Banner, 1.
Errors-(MTSU) Lodes 3, Banner, (Western) Cook,
Wiedenbein, Doubles-(MTSU) Peart, Brewer, (Western)
Davis, Stone, Stolen base-(MTSU) Lodes, Time-3:15.
Attendance-104.

Saturday's first game

Morehead State 200 400 1-7 11 3
Western Kentucky 100 004 1-6 10 0
Win-Chandler, 5-0; Loss-Morrow, 1-1; Save-Koger, 8.
Errors-(Morehead) Milam, Ratliff, Song, Doubles-(
Morehead) Fikes 2, Milam, Ratliff, Shourie, (Western)
Thomas, Wiedenbein, Home runs-(Morehead) Allison,
Hackworth 2, (Western) Moen, Stolen bases-(Western)
Moen, Nebett, Time-2:30, Attendance-187.

Saturday's second game

Morehead State 012 020 2-7 9 3
Western Kentucky 231 110 X-8 13 0
Win-Smith, 2-1; Loss-Hamilton, 2-2; Save-Taylor, 3.
Errors-(Morehead) Milam, Ratliff, Sapp, Doubles-(
Morehead) Smith, Allison, (Western) Jackson,
Moen, Pfannenstiel, Home run-(Western) Stone, Stolen
base-(Western) Moen, Time-2:25, Attendance-219.



baseball coach said. Down 8-6 with runners on first and second, Morehead's Smith launched Wade Taylor's pitch between Western outfielders Greg Slone and Paul Jackson. Slone tracked down the ball from center, Morehead's Chad Blackwell, the lead runner, scored as Slone threw in to the infield. Morehead's Donnie Hackworth rounded third as Western second baseman Chris Phillips caught Slone's throw and relayed home to catcher James

it an easy out call for the home-plate umpire. "There's no substitute for speed and accuracy on your throws," Murrie said. "Of course, when you have experienced people handling the ball in those situations like we do, I actually consider that something of a routine play. I expect us to make that play."

Slone caught a lazy fly for the third out, and Western had earned an 8-7 win and split of Saturday's double-header at Nick Denes Field.



Staff Color Photo by Joe Imel

WESTERN'S James Davis (left) tags Morehead day at Nick Denes Field. Western lost the first game State's Garry Sapp during their doubleheader Satur- 7-6 but won the nightcap 8-7.

DA 4-11-93

straining to end the game. Western (22-12) and Morehead (19-12) will settle the series at 1 p.m. today at Denes Field.

Friday

Middle Tennessee State 001 201 310-8 11 4
Western Kentucky 041 200 000-7 10 2
Win—Rickman, 1-0; Loss—Smily, 3-1; Save—Barner, 1.
Errors—(MTSU) Lodes 3, Barner, (Western) Cook.
Wiederbein, Doubles—(MTSU) Reavis, Brewer; (Western) Davis, Slone. Stolen base—(MTSU) Lodes, Time—3:15. Attendance—104.

Saturday's first game

Morehead State 200 400 1-7 11 3
Western Kentucky 100 004 1-6 10 0
Win—Chandler, 5-0; Loss—Morrow, 1-1; Save—Koger, 1.
Errors—(Morehead) Milam, Ratliff, Sorg; Doubles—(Morehead) Fuls 2, Milam, Ratliff, Stroupe; (Western) Thomas, Wiederbein. Home run—(Morehead) Allison, Hackworth 2; (Western) Moon. Stolen bases—(Western) Moon. Nestle, Time—2:30. Attendance—187.

Saturday's second game

Morehead State 012 020 2-7 9 3
Western Kentucky 231 110 X-8 13 0
Win—Smith, 2-1; Loss—Hamilton, 2-2; Save—Taylor, 3.
Errors—(Morehead) Milam, Ratliff, Sapp; Doubles—(Morehead) Smith, Allison; (Western) Jackson, Moon, Pannestiel. Home run—(Western) Slone. Stolen base—(Western) Moon. Time—2:25. Attendance—219.

Monelle's patience rewarded with gem

By ERIC WOEHLE

The Daily News 4-19-93

Greg Monelle spent most of his first two years with Western Kentucky University's baseball team waiting — waiting for a chance in his freshman year, waiting for his elbow to heal during his red-shirt 1992 season.

And he had been waiting since 1990 to throw the kind of game he did Sunday to beat Morehead State — complete and clever.

Monelle allowed nine hits, a walk and one earned run and struck out eight in the Hilltoppers' 7-2 victory at Nick Denes Field.

"I hadn't made it past the fifth inning since I've been here before today," Monelle said with a chuckle Sunday. "It had become a mental thing."

Throwing complete games was nothing odd for Monelle at Prosser High School in Chicago. The left-hander threw a no-hitter as a sophomore. He was 10-1 with an 0.54 earned-run average as a senior — and one of Western coach Joel Murrie's prize recruits.

But he has had few opportunities to show such prowess at Western. His opportunities were limited as a freshman on a pitching staff of tremendous depth and experience. And he missed last season after elbow surgery.

"Greg's really two years behind in terms of experience," Murrie said. "But he has worked hard to get back on the mound. He has to continue to improve, though, to make the jump to pitching the weekend conference games."

Monelle's most tense moments Sunday were in the first inning when a pair of singles put runners on first and third with one out. But he struck out the next batter and fielded a grounder for the third to end the inning. He allowed no more

than one hit an inning for the remainder of the game.

"The main thing was that I had my curveball today," Monelle said. "That gave me something to go with my fastball and kept them off balance."

"Greg was making quality pitches," Murrie said. "He was deceiving the hitters with some off-speed stuff and pitched from ahead in the count. After the first couple of innings, Greg found a groove and kind of Cadillac-ed it in."

Cadillac-ed?

"You know, cruised through without much difficulty," Murrie said.

The offense gave Monelle a 3-0 lead in the third when Western's three-six batters — Bill Weyers, Paul Jackson, Sean Thomas and Eddie Sharer — opened the inning with four hits, including three doubles.

The game remained close until the bottom of the eighth when Western scored three runs to build a 7-1 lead. Jackson's two-run homer was the big hit.

It was to left-center field, flying directly into a stiff wind, "but I knew it was gone," Western's

senior right-fielder said. "It was one of the best balls I've ever hit right-handed."

Not that the Toppers needed it with Monelle Cadillac-ing his way to his third victory against one loss this season.

"This was the type of outing Greg needed, but it was also exactly what we as a team needed," Murrie said. "You look at our depth chart, and I had (outfielder Barry) Nesbitt and (shortstop Clay) Wiedenbein listed as possible pitchers today."

Western (23-12) has played four games in the last three days and still faces a busy early week: 7:30 p.m. today at Middle Tennessee State, 3 p.m. Tuesday at Denes Field against Evansville and 7 p.m. Wednesday at Evansville.

"This is exactly how baseball should be played," Jackson said. "Every day."

Morehead State000 100 001—2 9 2
Western Kentucky.....003 000 13X—7 10 1
Win—Monelle, 3-1. Loss—Jacobs, 3-5. Errors—(Morehead) Milam, Sapp; (Western) Wiedenbein.
Doubles—(Morehead) Smith, Shoups; (Western) Sharer, Thomas, Weyers. Home runs—(Morehead) Ralliff; (Western) Jackson. Stolen bases—(Morehead) Smith, Sapp; (Western) Thomas, Weyers. Records—Morehead 19-13, Western 23-12. Time—2:50. Attendance—180.

At Bowling Green
 Evansville Ky. 102 110 020 — 7 14 0
 Western Ky. 100 202 330 — 11 14 1
 Noblin, Wandlee (S), Jumball (S) and Davis
 esano, Cook, Brinn (S), Smiley (S) and Davis
 W — Smith (S-1), L — Wandlee (S-1), 28 — B
 Brownlee (E), Ghee (E), Schutz (E), Watson
 (E), Fasano (E), Jackson (W), Lawrence 21
 (W), Nesbitt (W), Records — Evansville 22
 12, Western 24-13
 Monday at Murfreesboro, Tenn.
 Western Ky. 020 012 001 — 6 11 1
 Middle Tenn. 042 012 01x — 10 13 2
 Bernhard, Carpenter (S), Taylor (S) and
 Lawrence, Barner and Hicks, W — Barner
 (4-2), L — Bernhard (4-3), 28 — Davis (M)
 2, Jackson (M), Weyers (M), Wiedenbein
 (W), Finley (M), Hicks (M), Maxwell (M),
 Orlak (M), HR — Barner (M), Hicks (M),
 Records — Middle 19-17, Western 23-13
 e. j. 4/21 - softball
 KENTUCKY

Catchers providing bonus for Hilltoppers

By ERIC WOEHLE 4-21-83
The Daily News

Catchers are recruited for what they do behind the plate, not standing beside it. Offense from a catcher is considered a bonus, which is why James Davis and Sean Thomas are so valuable to Western Kentucky University's baseball team.

It was Davis' turn to start on Tuesday. The Hilltoppers beat Evansville 11-7 at Nick Denes Field, an outcome in which the sophomore from Franklin played no small part.

"It gives a pitcher confidence knowing that the catcher will block anything that gets in the dirt," said Shaun Smith, who threw the sixth and seventh innings and part of the eighth for the victory. "I didn't have to worry about anything but the batter.

"I could try to get the batters to fish for my slider because I knew James wouldn't let anything get by him. And if they try to run on him, ... well, they're gone."

With the score 5-5 in the seventh inning, Evansville had the go-ahead run on second with one out. When

Western is becoming accustomed to dual production from their catchers. In addition to providing stable defense, Davis and Thomas are two of the most dependable hitters in Murrie's batting order. They share .380 averages, tied for second-best on the team.

"They complement each other so well," Murrie said. "We have two bona-fide Division I catchers. What I'm so proud of is how they have accepted their role and really understand the importance of having two outstanding receivers on a team."

The Tops (24-13) and Purple Aces (22-12) meet again at 7 p.m. today, this time at Evansville's Bosse Field.

Aces coach Jim Brownlee said his team must have better pitching to earn revenge.

"You just can't walk and walk and walk people," he said. "You've got to throw strikes."

Brownlee, though, said blame shouldn't rest totally with his hurlers. Home-plate umpire Clarence Coleman "had different strike zones for us and them.

"I don't expect to go on the road in the NCAA and see umpiring like his. ... It wasn't bad for both teams; it was only bad for us. He (Coleman) knows who pays him."

Coleman, who also umpires games in the Southeastern and Big Ten conferences, among others, declined comment after the game.

Murrie said, "We have a good enough program that we don't bring in umpires who are going to make decisions one way or another that will jeopardize or help a team's chances."

Evansville102 110 020— 7 14 0
Western Kentucky.....100 202 33X—11 14 1
Win—Smith, 3-1. Loss—Wandke, 0-1. Save—Smyly. Errors—(Western) Moen. Doubles—(Evansville) Brownlee, Gries, Schulz, Watson, Fasano; (Western) Jackson, Lawrence 2, Nesbitt. Home runs—(Evansville) Watson; (Western) Nesbitt, Weyers. Stolen base—(Evansville) Fasano. Records—Evansville 22-12, Western 24-13. Game—2:56. Attendance—117.

Evansville hurler snuffs

By ERIC WOEHLEK
The Daily News

4-22-73

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — It was a school night, and it was getting late. So Evansville pitcher Greg Willming shut the door and sent the guests home.

When Willming was summoned from the Bosse Field bullpen before

the eighth inning Wednesday night, Western Kentucky University's

Aces 6-5. It stayed that way as Willming struck out the first two and last two batters he faced and retired the two in between to earn the save.

"He's every team's dream,"

Tops' comeback hopes

Hilltopper shortstop Clay Wiedenbein said. "It makes things a lot easier when you've got a guy who can come in and shut the door — a legitimate closer."

Which, in fact, Willming is not. It was the first save of the season for the 6-foot-3 senior right-hander from Dogwagiac, Mich.

"He hasn't pitched relief all year long," Evansville coach Jim Brownlee said. "He's our No. 1. But he needed the innings, and we got to the seventh inning and decided we needed more juice. He's been clocked at 90 (mph) on the gun, and he was probably getting up around that tonight."

Actually, Western was having difficulty hitting before Willming spelled the Aces' starter, Chris Helfrich. The Tops' last hit came in the fourth inning — Pat Pumphrey's one-run single that gave Western a

4-3 lead.

Western scored its last run in the seventh when Greg Slone reached first on an error, stole second and came home when Evansville misplayed Mark Pfannenstiel's bunt. It was 5-5.

Evansville scored its winning run in the bottom half.

With one out, Sal Fasano looped a fly deep to right-center field. Western outfielders Slone and Paul Jackson became entangled in chase and fell. The ball rolled to the wall, but Jackson recovered quickly and threw to Chris Phillips in shallow center. Phillips relayed to third. The throw was in time and accurate but scooted away from Pumphrey, and Fasano was safe. He scored when the next batter, Aaron Devlin, singled through the middle of the infield.

Willming entered the next inning, and Western was heading for its 14th loss against 24 victories.

"We had the opportunity to win," Hilltopper coach Joel Murrie said. "We just failed to do the things down the stretch that were necessary to win."

"The whole team came out really fired up today, because of the (Evansville) coach's comments after yesterday's game," Wiedenbein said.

On Tuesday, Western beat the Purple Aces 11-7 at Nick Denes Field. Brownlee said after that game that his team was victimized by biased umpiring.

"Much better tonight," Brownlee said of Wednesday's game despite having made two trips from his dugout to argue calls. "You just want it to be consistent. If a guy's going to call a ball in one area for one team, he needs to call it a ball in the same area for the other team."

The Tops play next on Saturday in Mobile, Ala., in a double-header against South Alabama to open a three-game weekend series. The Jaguars lead the Sun Belt's East Division with a 9-5 league mark; Western is second at 7-5. Saturday's doubleheader begins at 4 p.m. The series finale will be 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

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"We had the opportunity to win," Hilltopper coach Joel Murrie said. "We just failed to do the things down the stretch that were necessary to win."

Offense deserted the Tops late Wednesday, but it had been productive early. Wiedenling, a junior from Milford, Ohio, bopped a two-run home run in his first at-bat and a one-run double in his second.

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Western Kentucky	020	200	100-5	9 1
Evansville	003	002	10X-8	10 2
Win—Helfrich, 5-0. Loss—Carpenter 4-3. Save—Wilmning 1. Errors—(Western) Wejers, (Evansville) Brownlee, Helfrich. Double—(Western) Wiedenling. Triple—(Evansville) Fasano. Home run—(Western) Wiedenling. Slout bases—(Western) Stone, (Evansville) Devlin, Ehinger. Games. Records—Western 24-14, Evansville 23-12. Time—2:30. Attendance—200.					

No shock: Toppers, Jags play for lead

By ERIC WOHLER
The Daily News

4-23-83
No surprise here: Western Kentucky and South Alabama play for the Sun Belt Conference East Division lead this weekend in Mobile.

League coaches saw it coming back in the winter, before even the first pop of a leather mitt or clank of an aluminum bat. The preseason baseball coaches poll showed South Alabama and Western 1-2 in the East Division. The standings heading into the final three weekends of conference play show the coaches' prophecy realized.

"I think we're both having decent seasons, not great seasons," Jaguars coach Steve Kittrell said. "But this, obviously, could be a pretty pivotal weekend for both of us."

They'll play a double-header beginning at 4 p.m. Saturday and the series finale at 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

South Alabama (22-11-1 overall) is 9-5 in the Sun Belt. Western (24-14) is 7-5. Arkansas State (6-6) and Jacksonville (7-8) also play this weekend. The top three teams in each of the Sun Belt's divisions make the conference tournament.

"It's like I was telling a few of the players earlier," Western assistant coach Dan Mosier said. "I walked into the locker room, and they're talking about making the

Continued On Page 2
Column 4, This Section

WKU BASEBALL

4-23-93

tournament. I said, 'Making the tournament? We're playing for a divisional championship here.'"

The Tops were beaten three straight in Mobile last spring but rebounded to win two of three with the Jags in Bowling Green and make the Sun Belt tournament.

There is no safety net this season. This weekend's series is the lone meeting of the teams.

"We're just glad to have these games down here," Kittrell said.

Despite Western's losses there in his only visit, sophomore catcher James Davis lists Mobile as one of his favorite roadtrips.

"You play in front of 3,000 people, most of them college students," Davis said. "They are all over you; they know you by name. But it kind of helps you rise to the occasion."

Mosier called Eddie Stanky Field "an outstanding facility. They take their baseball seriously down there. The fans do ride you pretty hard. But I think everybody looks forward to it."

A year ago, South Alabama was the Sun Belt's best pitching club. But the league's best pitcher in 1992, Jon Lieber, is pitching for the Class A Wilmington Royals. And Kittrell's first and second starters —

Mark Thompson and Jamie Jaye, respectively — have been injured much of the season. As a result, the Jags enter the weekend series with a 6.02 team ERA, the loftiest in the league.

"I think our pitchers are settling down, though," Kittrell said. "Thompson is back. He pitched a two-hitter against Arkansas State in his first start back last weekend. I hope we can neutralize Western's offense a little."

The Hilltoppers score more runs per game (8.23) than any Sun Belt team. Their .310 team batting average and average of slightly less than a home run per outing both rank second-best in the league.

Senior first baseman Bill Weyers is the Sun Belt's best hitter with a .427 average. Clay Wiedenbein has a Topper-best eight homers, which puts the shortstop among the league leaders.

The Tops have a bit of an injury problem, too. Andy Alepra has a pulled muscle near his rib cage, meaning fellow sophomore left-hander Greg Monelle might join junior right-handers Darin Bernhard and Matt Cook in the pitching rotation.

Also, third basemen Gus Moen

and John Eglich have missed action, leaving the job to Pat Pumphrey, a sophomore who didn't play last season.

"And third base is a key position against South Alabama because they like to bunt so much," Mosier said.

South Alabama — which leads the Sun Belt in hitting with a .324 average and ranks behind Western in scoring at 7.94 — is the league's fastest team. Outfielder Tyrone Dixon is the conference leader in steals with 27; second baseman Pat Murphy (17 stolen bases) and outfielder David Diaz (10) are also in the top 10. All three get on base a lot, too: Dixon hits .376, Murphy .365 and Diaz .392.

Sun Belt

Sun Belt Conference East Division baseball standings and this weekend's schedule:

East Division	9-5
South Alabama	7-5
Western Kentucky	6-6
Arkansas State	7-8
Jacksonville	5-10
Arkansas-Little Rock	
Saturday	
Arkansas State at Jacksonville, double-header	
Western Kentucky at South Alabama, double-header	
Sunday	
Arkansas State at Jacksonville	
Western Kentucky at South Alabama	

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Hilltoppers lose opener at South Al, hold second

4-25-93

A Daily News report

Western Kentucky University's baseball team maintained a slim hold on second place in the Sun Belt Conference East Division entering Saturday's second game of a doubleheader at South Alabama.

After losing 13-7 in the first game, the Hilltoppers led South Alabama 5-2 in the fifth inning of Saturday night's game. In Jonesboro, Ark., on Saturday, Arkansas State and Jacksonville split a doubleheader.

Before the second game in Mobile, South Alabama led the Sun Belt East with a 10-5 league mark, followed by Western (7-6), Arkansas State (7-7) and Jacksonville (8-9). The top three teams advance to the conference tournament.

In the first game at South Alabama, the Hilltoppers fell behind 3-0 before rallying to tie, and slipped behind again 8-3 before closing to 8-7 in the sixth.

"In the middle innings, I was beginning to think we were going to take this one," Western coach Joel Murrie said. "We had scratched and clawed our way back into it. And then we allow them another five spot."

With no out and a runner on first in the seventh inning, Murrie pulled Shaun Smith for another reliever, Doug Smyly. After South Alabama's Scott Southard singled, Marlon Anderson — a pinch-hitter — fouled on his first swing and missed strike two before sending Smyly's 0-2 pitch for a home run and an 11-7 Jaguar lead.

South Alabama scored two more runs in the inning — stealing three bases along the way — to build its winning margin.

"We continue to make mistakes that you can't make and be successful at this level," Murrie said before Saturday's second game.

Western (24-15 overall) and South Alabama (24-11-1) play at 1:30 p.m. today to finish the series.

First game
Western Kentucky000 124 000— 7 8 2
South Alabama201 050 50X—13 14 0
Win—Ybarra, 4-2. Loss—Bernhard, 4-3. Errors—(Western) Davis, Eglich. Doubles—(Western) Weyers, (South Alabama) Bledsoe, Southard, Dixon. Triples—(South Alabama) Murphy. Home runs—(Western) Davis; (South Alabama) Anderson, Dixon. Stolen bases—(South Alabama) Murphy 3, Diaz 2, Dixon 2. Time—2:48. Attendance—835.

Tops lose two at South Al, slip into tie for second place

A Daily News report 4-26-73 Western Kentucky University's baseball team slipped into a tie for second place in the Sun Belt Conference East Division by losing two of three games of a weekend series at South Alabama.

But the Hilltoppers strengthened their chances of making the league tournament.

After bookending 13-7 and 7-6 victories around a 6-5 Saturday night loss to the Tops, South Alabama leads the Sun Belt East with an 11-6 conference record. Western and Arkansas State are both 8-7. Jacksonville, which lost two of three at Arkansas State this weekend, is 8-10, and Arkansas-Little Rock is last at 5-10. The top three teams from each of the two Sun Belt divisions make the league tournament.

Western hosts Arkansas State next weekend and visits the Indians on May 8 and 9.

The Tops (25-16 overall) lost in the 10th inning, 7-6, Sunday in Mobile as South Alabama's Jim Bledsoe singled off Robb Taylor with bases full.

Greg Monelle, Western's starting pitcher, had held the Jaguars scoreless through three innings and seemed to have worked his way out of the fourth as right-fielder Paul Jackson waited for Rex Gonzalez's two-out fly ball. But Jackson, apparently losing sight of the ball in

the sun, mishandled it, and two runs scored. The next batter, I.B. Stacy, hit a two-run home run to shave Western's lead to 5-4.

South Alabama tied the game in the sixth and took a 6-5 lead in the seventh. Western forced the extra inning when, in the ninth, pinch-runner John Eglich scored from second base on Clay Wiedenbein's on-base single.

On Saturday, Western lost the first game before rebounding to win the second when Ryan Hepworth singled home Bill Weyers to break a 5-5 tie in the top of the seventh and finish the inning.

Lean Carpenter was the winning pitcher. Third-baseman Eglich earned a save of sorts with a diving catch of Jeremy Hunt's line drive for South Alabama's last out with runners on first and third.

Before their next Sun Belt action, Western plays a pair of games outside the conference: 3:30 p.m. Tuesday at Austin Peay State in Clarksville, Tenn., and 3 p.m. Wednesday at Nick Denes Field against APS J.

Sunday
Western Kentucky.....104 000 001 0-6 11 3
South Alabama.....000 401 100 1-7 12 2
Win—Patrick, 7-3. Loss—Taylor, 0-2. Errors—(Western)
Phillips, Wiedenbein 2; (South Alabama) Collier, Patrick
Doubles—(Western) Thomas, Wiedenbein; (South
Alabama) Collier 2, Gonzalez. Home run—(South
Alabama) Stacy. Stolen bases—(Western) Hepworth;
(South Alabama) Murphy. Records—South Alabama 25-
12, Western 25-16. Time—3:25. Attendance—877.

Baseball Tops meet APSU today, Wednesday

A Daily News report 4-27-93 Western Kentucky University's baseball team faces Austin Peay State today and Wednesday before returning to Sun Belt Conference play.

The Hilltoppers (25-16) lost two of three at South Alabama during a weekend conference series. Austin Peay (25-18) has dropped four in a row heading into today's 6 p.m. game in Clarksville, Tenn.

Free tickets for tonight's game are available at Trans Financial Bank.

Western and the Governors meet again 3 p.m. Wednesday at Nick Denes Field.

The Tops play Arkansas State at Denes Field in a doubleheader at 1 p.m. Saturday and series finale at 1 p.m. Sunday. The teams share second place in the Sun Belt's East Division with 8-7 league marks.

Women's golf

The Lady Toppers finished last at the 13-team, three-day South

Alabama Intercollegiate in Gulf Shores, Ala., on Sunday. Stacey Newman was Western's top performer, firing a 242 — 21 strokes off the pace of tournament medalist Sarah Britt of Mississippi.

The tournament was Western's last of the season.

At Clarksville, Tenn.
Western Ky. ... 012 120 000— 6 10 63
Austin Peay ... 115 600 50x—18 20 2
Alepra, Carpenter (4), Smyly (7), Morrow
(8) and Thomas, Dortch, Albright (7),
Shockey (8), Murphy (8) and Law, W—
Dortch 4-1, Alepra 1-2, 2B — Quade (A),
Sims (A), Law (A), 3B — Hayes (A), Wallin
(A), HR — Thomas W, Link (A), Quade (A).
Records — Western 25-17, Austin Peay 26-
18.

APSU knocks out Tops; rematch today

A Daily News report 4-28-93
Hoping to an avenge an 18-6 loss at Austin Peay State on Tuesday, Western Kentucky University's baseball team hosts the Governors at 3 p.m. today.

The Hilltoppers (25-17) committed six errors and allowed 20 hits in Tuesday's game in Clarksville, Tenn.

Western led 3-2 through after the visiting half of the third inning before the Governors (26-18) took the lead for good with a five-run frame. Catcher Sean Thomas' fourth home run of the season was one of Western's few bright spots.

Western Kentucky012 120 000— 6 10 6
Austin Peay State115 600 60X—18 20 2
Win—Dortch, 4-1. Loss—Alepra, 1-2. Errors—(Western) Davis, Hepworth, Plannenstiel, Phillips, Weyers, Wiedenbein; (Austin Peay) Hayes 2. Doubles—(Austin Peay) Quade, Sims, Cook, Law. Triples—(Austin Peay) Hayes,

Wallin. Home runs—(Western) Thomas; (Austin Peay) Link, Quade. Stolen bases—(Western) Plannenstiel, Wiedenbein; (Austin Peay) Hayes 2, Link, Quade, Sims, Mikulecky. Records—Western 25-17, Austin Peay State 26-18. Time—3:10. Attendance—296.

Cross country

Christina Brown, the 1992 Kentucky state high school and Amateur Athletic Union national champion in girls' cross country, has signed to run for Western.

"She has the talent to come in next fall and run competitively in the Sun Belt Conference as a freshman," Western coach Curtiss Long said.

Brown has won all-state honors four times during her career at Owen County High School in Owenton. She won the state meet in 1991 and '92.

C.J. At Bowling Green 4-28-93
Austin Peay ... 003 002 000— 5 10 33
Western Ky. ... 014 122 00X—10 16 1
Streeter, Richardson (3), Speer (4), Manning (8), Healey (7) and Bennett. Monelle, Bernhard (3), Smith (5), Cooke (7), Taylor (9) and Davis. W — Bernhard (5-4). L — Richardson (2-5). 2B — Link (A) 2, Nesbitt (W). HR — Phillips (W) 2. Records — Austin Peay 26-19, Western Kentucky 26-17.
At Morehead

Baseball Toppers rebound from embarrassment, belt APSU 10-5

By ERIC WOEHLE
The Daily News 4-29-93

A 10-5 victory over Austin Peay State did little to improve Joel Murrie's voice, though it did wonders for his spirits.

"I feel a lot better than I did three outs ago," Western Kentucky University's baseball coach said after Wednesday's game at Nick Denes Field.

Illness had reduced Murrie's voice to a raspy whisper, making the words to describe Tuesday's 18-6 loss to the Governors come to Murrie even less easily.

"It was a very, very poor performance all the way around," he said. "We were embarrassed."

"But it's nice to be able to come back and set the record straight the next day. You can't do that in any other sport."

Western's four-run third inning ended Austin Peay's bid to sweep the short series with its former mate in the Ohio Valley Conference.

The first five Hilltopper hitters in the inning reached base — the last

Austin Peay State 003 002 000— 5 10 3
Western Kentucky 014 122 00X—10 16 1
Win—Bernhard, 5-4, Loss—Richardson, 2-5, Errors—(Austin Peay) Cook, Hayes, Smith, (Western) Plannertel, Doubles—(Austin Peay) Link, 2, (Western) Nesbitt, Home run—(Western) Phillips, Stolen bases—(Austin Peay) Link, (Western) Nesbitt, 2, Records—Austin Peay 26-19, Western 26-17, Time—3:00, Attendance—308.

of which, catcher James Davis, knocked in two runs with a single.

The Toppers added a run in the fourth and two each in the fifth and sixth innings to offer plenty of support for five Western pitchers.

Left-fielder Barry Nesbitt and first baseman Bill Weyers had three hits each. Nesbitt, Davis and second baseman Chris Phillips batted in two runs apiece — Phillips' RBI coming on a sixth-inning home run.

"I just wish we could have scored more runs," designated hitter Sean Thomas said. "There's no way they feel like we did yesterday."

Western allowed 20 hits and committed six errors in Tuesday's game in Clarksville, Tenn.

"It was an all-around bad day,"

center-fielder Ryan Hepworth said. "... We definitely wanted to get revenge, but more than anything else, we just needed a win."

The Toppers had lost seven of their last 11 games heading into Wednesday's outing.

The loss at APSU "might turn out to be a positive," shortstop Clay Wiedenhein said, "because it definitely can't get any worse than that game."

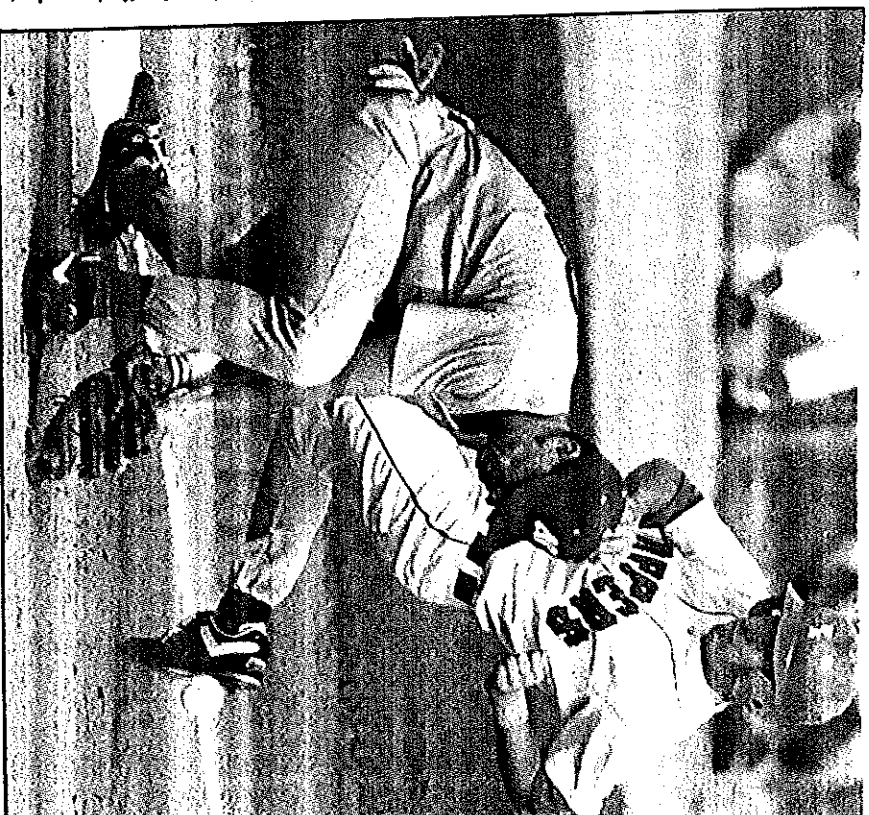
Up next for the Toppers (26-17) is a three-game weekend series with Arkansas State at Denes Field. Western and the Indians are tied for second place in the Sun Belt Conference's East Division with 8-7 league records. The top three teams in both divisions make the conference playoffs.

A doubleheader begins at 1 p.m. Saturday. The series finale will be 1 p.m. Sunday. Children who wear their youth-league baseball or softball jerseys will be admitted free.

Sunday, and the first 200 to arrive will receive a free Western baseball hat.

After winning six straight, Western has struggled to the end of April. Murrie remains confident.

"This club has played well in situations like the one we're facing this weekend," he said. "And we normally play well down the stretch."



Staff Color Photo by Paul Bersebach

BARRY NESBITT hurries to third base before the throw gets to Austin Peay's Troy Hayes. Western Kentucky beat the Gobs 10-5 at Nick Denes Field on Wednesday.

Baseball Toppers rebound from barrrassment, belt APSU 10-5

WOEHLER

News 4-29-93

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Western Kentucky 014 122 00X-10 16 1
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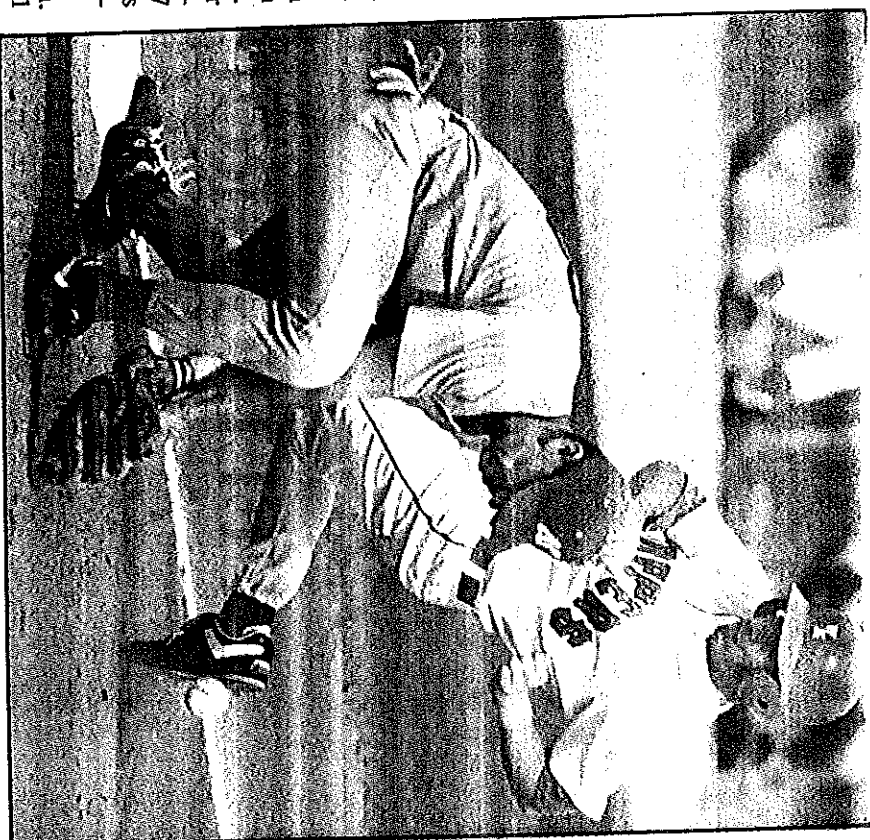
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Staff Color Photo by Paul Bersebach

BARRY NESBITT hurries to third base before the throw gets to Austin Peay's Troy Hayes. Western Kentucky beat the Gobs 10-5 at Nick Denes Field on Wednesday.

Hilltoppers, Ark. State similarly inconsistent

By ERIC WOEHLE

The Daily News 4-30-93

Match the baseball coach with the quotation.

"We have our good days and our bad. We've done some nice things, and we done some ugly things."

"With this club, it just seems like it's two steps up and one step back. We've proven on several occasions that we can be a quality ballclub, but we still make mistakes you cannot make at this level."

For the record, Arkansas State's Bill Bethea said the first, Western Kentucky's Joel Murrie the last. But either coach would likely claim either quote.

Bethea and Murrie have teams that share not only the same spot in the Sun Belt Conference East Division standings, but a tendency to inconsistency, as well.

Western (26-17 overall, 8-7 in the league) hosts Arkansas State (28-19, 8-7) in a three-game series beginning with a doubleheader at 1 p.m. Saturday. The series finale will be 1 p.m. Sunday at Nick Denes Field.

"I guess whichever one of us shows up will be all right," Bethea said.

Arkansas State is the division's best pitching club despite the loss of one of its best pitchers, Ronnie Phillips, to injury about a month ago.

The Indians' 4.35 team earned-run average is second best in the conference. The late relief staff has been particularly effective — 47 opponents have combined for 23 runs after the seventh inning.

The top relievers, right-hander Chris Plumlee and lefty Brian Anderson, each have three saves. Plumlee's 2.37 ERA is the team's best among pitchers with 20 or more innings of work.

Bethea said Thursday he was still

undecided on a starting rotation for the Western series. Against Jacksonville last weekend, right-handers Dan Lyons (4-2 with a 3.52 ERA), Pat Monahan (2-2, 3.81) and Keith Horn (4-1, 4.24) got the ball.

Arkansas State is led in hitting by senior catcher Chris Unrat with a .336 average. His 10 home runs and 42 runs batted in are also team-highs. Junior outfielder Derek Alferman has 22 stolen bases.

Western enters the series after beating Austin Peay State 10-5 on Wednesday — a win welcomed as warmly as any this season. The Tops had lost to the same Governors 18-6 the day before and were coming off a disappointing weekend trip to South Alabama, where they lost two of three to the Sun Belt East Division leaders.

"We should have won two of three," senior first baseman Bill Weyers said, "at least."

Weyers remains Western's hottest hitter. His .444 average leads the Sun Belt. He also has six home runs and 41 runs batted in.

Six other Hilltopper regulars bat better than .300: catcher James Davis (.368), catcher Sean Thomas (.337), outfielder Barry Nesbitt (.331), outfielder Ryan Hepworth (.327), designated hitter Eddie Sharer (.314) and outfielder Greg Slone (.304).

Outfielder Paul Jackson has improved his average to .248 after an early season slump. But Jackson, who said he "felt like Bill Buckner or Chris Webber" after misplaying a routine fly to spark South Alabama's successful comeback in the series finale in Mobile last weekend, may miss the Arkansas State games because of a pulled groin muscle.

"It might be the weekend; it might be the tournament" before Jackson is back in the lineup, he said after Wednesday's game. "... Of

Sun Belt

Sun Belt Conference East Division baseball standings and this weekend's schedule:

East Division	
South Alabama	11-6
Western Kentucky	8-7
Arkansas State	8-7
Jacksonville	8-10
Arkansas-Little Rock	5-10
Saturday	
Arkansas State at Western Kentucky, double-header	
South Alabama at Arkansas-Little Rock, double-header	
Sunday	
Arkansas State at Western Kentucky	
South Alabama at Arkansas-Little Rock	

course, if I knew they were going to play like this without me, I would have sat down a long time ago."

Western scores more runs (8.02 per game) than any other team in the Sun Belt but gives up the most (5.86), as well.

Junior right-handers Darin Bernhard (5-4 with a 6.24 ERA) and Matt Cook (5-2, 6.23) have been regulars in the conference rotation. Sophomore left-hander Greg Monelle (3-1, 5.64) started against South Alabama and pitched two scoreless innings against Austin Peay on Wednesday.

Three teams from the East will make the Sun Belt tournament, and the winner of this weekend's series greatly improves its playoff chances. Bethea and Murrie are similarly optimistic.

"We have played up to the level of our competition."

"This club has played well in situations like the one we're facing this weekend."

That was Bethea first, Murrie second.

Sunday is Western Tire Wholesale Youth Day at Denes Field. Children wearing their youth league baseball or softball jerseys will be admitted free. The first 200 to arrive will receive a free Western baseball cap.

Two losses to ASU drop Tops to third in East Division race

By ERIC WOEHLE, The Daily News

The question of what the Hilltoppers must do differently after losing seven of 10 games doesn't puzzle Bill Weyers.

"We just have to win," said the senior first baseman on Western Kentucky University's baseball team. "Ugly or however it's got to be, we just have to win."

Western slipped from its second-place tie with Arkansas State in the Sun Belt Conference East Division standings by losing a pair to the Indians at Nick Denes Field on Saturday.

The 9-6 and 9-0 losses drop the Tops (8-9 in the Sun Belt) to third in the division and a half-game up on Jacksonville (8-10) with a weekend and a day left in the conference regular season. The Dolphins are not playing this weekend. The top three teams in both of the Sun Belt's divi-

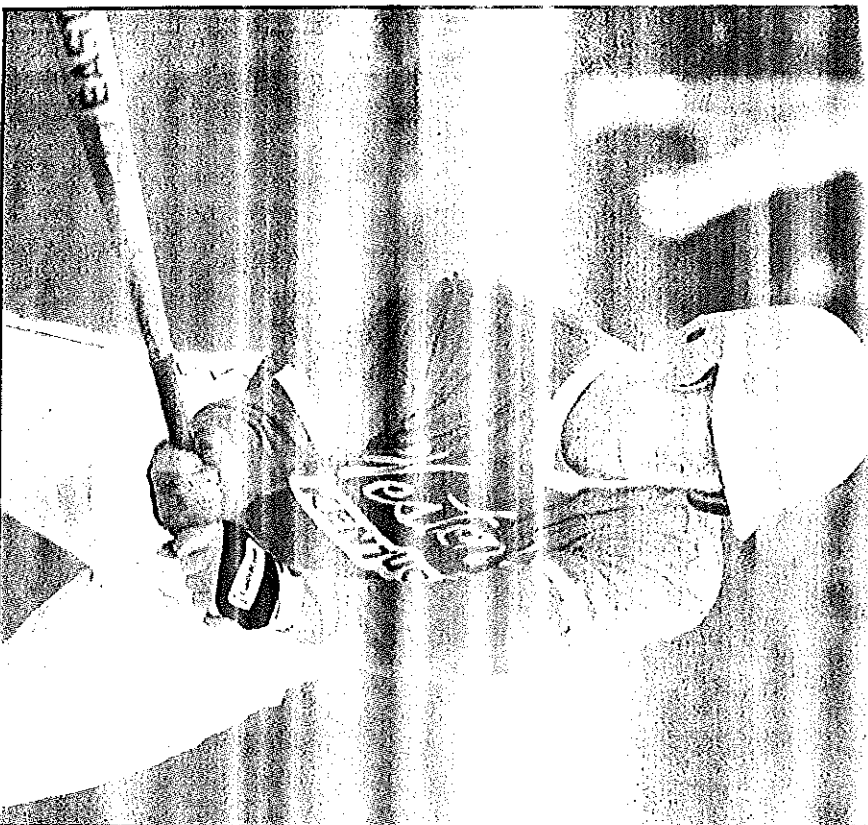
sions make the conference tournament.

"We're still ahead of Jacksonville," Western coach Joel Murrie said. "There are three more days of Sun Belt baseball. If we're good — if we have enough talent — then we'll come out all right. If we don't, then all of this worrying and speculation would have been wasted, anyway."

Arkansas State (10-7), meanwhile, inched within a game of the East leader, South Alabama (11-6).

"We've been needing to swing the bats a little, and we did today," Indians coach Bill Bethea said.

Arkansas State trailed 5-0 after three innings of the first game but mounted a slow, steady comeback: two in the fourth inning and single runs in the fifth, sixth and seventh.



Staff Color Photo by Paul Bersebach

PAUL JACKSON takes a swing against Arkansas State on Saturday. The Hilltoppers lost 7-0 and 7-0 in a Sun Belt Conference West Division doubleheader at Nick Denes Field.

Continued on Page 6
Column 4, This Section

WKU BASEBALL

continued from Page 1

was 6-5, Western, heading into the ninth.

Eric Kuhl doubled with one out and came home on Darrin Travers' single off Western reliever Shaun Smith. Murrie called on Robb Taylor to pitch. Kevin Simler reached on an error by third baseman John Eglich, and the next two Indians singled to make it 9-6.

A two-out, infield single by Paul Jackson — limited to pinch-hitting duty because of a groin injury — was the 'Tops' lone hit in the ninth.

"I hate getting beat," Murrie said. "But Arkansas State earned this win. I admired the way their personnel did their jobs. And I'm not criticizing our players, but their kids went out today and played very sound offensive baseball."

The second game was never close. A five-run second inning gave ASU a 6-0 lead. Western, which led the Sun Belt in scoring before Saturday's game, was limited to four hits.

"The easy excuse for Game 2 is that we were down after we lost Game 1," Murrie said. "But I saw a kid on the mound making some

pretty good pitches."

Indian right-hander Keith Horn (5-1) struck out seven in working the seven-inning complete game.

"He was pitching us in," Weyers said. "A lot of teams pitch us outside."

Western will try to avoid a sweep at 1 p.m. today. Sophomore left-hander Andy Aleph (1-2) will face Arkansas State's Pat Monahan (2-2), a senior right-hander. The teams will meet for another three-game series next weekend in Jonesboro, Ark.

"Coming into these six games, we said the worst we could afford to do was split three and three," Murrie said. "Obviously, we would have liked to have won at least two here and scrapped a game down there."

"Well, our plans haven't changed. We just have to do it in a different fashion."

Today is Western Tire Wholesale Youth Day at Deneb Field. Children wearing their youth league baseball or softball jerseys will be admitted free. The first 200 to arrive will

Sun Belt

Sun Belt Conference East Division baseball standings as of today's schedule:

East Division	
South Alabama	11-7
Arkansas State	10-8
Western Kentucky	8-9
Jacksonville	3-4
Arkansas-Little Rock	5-11

Saturday	
Arkansas at 9:00, Western Kentucky 7:00	
South Alabama at Arkansas-Little Rock, rain	
Sunday	
Arkansas at Western Kentucky	
South Alabama at Arkansas-Little Rock, doubleheader	

receive a free Western baseball cap.

First game	
Arkansas State	000 211 104-9 12 3
Western Kentucky	041 000 010-6 11 3
Win—Anderson, 4-4. Loss—Smith, 3-2. Errors—(Arkansas State) Alferman, Floyd, Gomez; (Western) Eglich 2, Plannenstiel. Doubles—(Arkansas State) Kuhl, Rose; (Western) Plannenstiel, Weyers. Home run—(Arkansas State) Gomez. Stolen bases—(Arkansas State) Alferman. Time—2:58. Attendance—361.	

Second game	
Arkansas State	150 020 1-9 1-0
Western Kentucky	000 000 0-0 1-3
Win—Horn, 5-1. Loss—Cook, 5-3. Errors—(Western) Eglich 2, Plannenstiel. Double—(Arkansas State) Alferman. Home runs—(Arkansas State) Eaker, Olivas. Stolen bases—(Arkansas State) Gomez; (Western) Nestor. Records—Arkansas State 30-19, Western 19-19. Total attendance—	

twins spin

"We had to have two wins to have a legitimate shot of finishing as the No. 1 seed in the district. ... But it's the team that's playing well in the district tournament that will go on to the regional and have a chance at going to the State Tournament."

D N

5-2-93

— Western East High School softball coach Phil Burkeen after Greenwood, which has a two-game lead in the district standings, and East split a doubleheader.

WKU comes back

"It was a very, very poor performance all the way around. We were embarrassed. But it's nice to be able to come back and set the record straight the next day. You can't do that in any other sport." — Western Kentucky University baseball coach Joel Murrie after the Hilltoppers' 10-5 win Wednesday over Austin Peay State. APSU had defeated Western 18-6 on Tuesday.

Veteran club

"That's a good feeling knowing you've got those people in there, and there's freshmen mixed in with the seniors. We have a lot of leadership on the infield and in the outfield, ... and that gives the freshmen confidence to play big next year and be leaders." — Bowling Green High School softball coach Diane Pogue, whose eight seniors have helped contribute to the Lady Purples' improvement from a seven-win season in 1992 to a 13-7 mark midway through the 1993 season.

Valvano remembered

"Even though we felt this would probably be coming, the finality is still a shock. ... Not only did Jim have a great coaching career, speaking career, family and friends, but in the last year he was a role model of courage to the countless thousands afflicted with life-threatening diseases." — North Carolina coach Dean Smith.

Home court edge

"You've got to get to that final stage before you can even utilize that homecourt advantage. You never know what may happen in the playoffs."

"Everyone's talking about homecourt advantage. We've got the second-best record in the East. New York is not in the finals. We're not in the finals. So that's still a lot of talk in between action." — Michael Jordan, after the Bulls lost homecourt advantage to the New York Knicks in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

NBA-NBC deal

"The era of ego is dead among network sports executives. We can't make deals where we lose tens and tens and tens and even hundreds of millions of dollars. The days of saying 'We Won' just because we got a deal are gone." — Dick Ebersol, president of NBC Sports, after the NBA and NBC agreed to a new 4-year contract that carries no specific price tag.

Deion disqualified

"Being around him, I could see he wasn't happy. ... Deion is the type who is going to do what's best for Deion." — Atlanta outfielder Otis Nixon after Deion Sanders was placed on the disqualified list for refusing to return to the team.

Bad New Bears

"We're the Bad News Bears and have been playing terrible ball. We have to get our act together real soon." — New York Mets pitcher Bret Saberhagen on the play of the last-place Mets.

20, U-19.
 Arkansas State ... 000 211 104-8 13 3
 Western Ky. ... 041 002 010-8 11 3
 Lyons, Derby (S), Miller (S), Parnes (S),
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 Davis W. — Anderson (S-4), L. — Baker (S-4)
 2, 2B — Kuhl (A), Rose (A), Plankinabel
 (M), Weyers (M), HR — Gomez (A), Rec-
 ords — Arkansas State 28-18, 8-2, Western
 Ky. 25-18, 8-3.
 Arkansas State ... 156 220 1-2 11 0
 Western Ky. ... 000 000 0-0 4 3
 Horn and Urral, Cook, Bernhard (S) and
 Thomas, W. — Horn (S-1), U. — Cook (S-3),
 2B — Altemier (A), HR — Eaker (A), O'Neil
 (A), Records — Arkansas State 30-19, 10-1,
 Western Ky. 28-18, 8-2, C.U. 15-7, 2-2.

Baseball
 At Bowling Green, Ky. ... 100-1 8 1
 Arkansas State ... 000 000 205-3 8 2
 W. Kentucky ... 000 001 205-3 8 2
 Monahan, Anderson (S), Howell (S) and
 Urral, Alcorn and Davis W. — Alcorn (S-2)
 L. — Monahan (S-3), 2B — Rose (AS), 3B —
 Epko (NJD), Records — Arkansas 60-50,
 20, 10-4 in Sun Belt, Western Kentucky 27-
 19, 8-2, C.U. 15-7, 2-2.



Alepra snuffs Tops h

By ERIC WOEHLE
The Daily News

The ball comes back catcher. Andy Alepra tosses his glove hand, snaps it with his left. He buries his left armpit, tugs out hand and massages the ball.

The glove is on again steps to the back of the mound in the full scope of the spins and sweeps the pitcher back and forth and back with his right foot. He turns his right shoulder to home, props himself up with his hand on his slightly bent arm and considers the signals as the ball is flashing.

No. No. No. OK.

Alepra stands erect and takes a heavy sigh. A long look over his shoulder on first base, a glance at the second and here he comes, spring at last uncoiled.

Strike one.

"Deliberate," Western University's baseball coach, Murrie, said, "is a good word to describe Andy."

Dominant, on Sunday, Alepra, a sophomore, is making his first start since a muscle near his rib cage cramped a month ago, struck out 10, allowed eight hits and threw on his way to a complete game, the Hilltoppers' 3-1 victory over Arkansas State.

"Timing is important," said. "Today, I pitched at a slow pace."

He took time, on occasion, to glare at the umpire, to look down from his glasses and to stare at the ground.

Staff Photo by Paul Bersebach

ANDY ALEPRA unwinds during Sunday's 3-1 Hilltopper victory over Arkansas State at Nick Denes Field.



Alepra slowly snuffs Ark. State; Tops hold third

By ERIC WOHLER
The Daily News 5-3-93

The ball comes back from the catcher. Andy Alepra tosses it with his glove hand, snaps it from the air with his left. He buries his glove in his left armpit, tugs out his right hand and massages the ball.

The glove is on again. Alepra steps to the back of the mound, takes in the full scope of the outfield, spins and sweeps the pitching rubber back and forth and back again with his right foot. He turns sideways, his right shoulder to home plate. He props himself up with his glove hand on his slightly bent right knee and considers the signals the catcher is flashing.

No. No. No. OK.

Alepra stands erect and breathes a heavy sigh. A long look at the runner on first base, a glance back to second and here he comes — a tight spring at last uncoiled.

Strike one.

"Deliberate," Western Kentucky University's baseball coach, Joel Murrie, said, "is a good way to describe Andy."

Dominant, on Sunday, was another. Alepra, a sophomore making his first start since straining a muscle near his rib cage about a month ago, struck out five and allowed eight hits and three walks on his way to a complete game in the Hilltoppers' 3-1 victory over Arkansas State.

"Timing is important," Alepra said. "Today, I pitched at my own pace."

He took time, on occasion, to glare at the umpire, to wipe rain from his glasses and to scrape mud

Sun Belt

Sun Belt Conference East Division baseball standings, Sunday's results and next weekend's schedule:

East Division	
South Alabama	11-6
Arkansas State	10-8
Western Kentucky	9-9
Jacksonville	8-10
Arkansas-Little Rock	5-10

Sunday

Western Kentucky 3, Arkansas State 1
South Alabama at Arkansas-Little Rock, rain: out

May 8

Arkansas-Little Rock at Jacksonville, doubleheader
Western Kentucky at Arkansas State, doubleheader

May 9

Arkansas-Little Rock at Jacksonville
Western Kentucky at Arkansas State

from his cleats.

"I really tried to slow it down when they had men on base," Alepra said. "I wanted to break their momentum."

In Saturday's games — 9-5 and 9-0 Arkansas State wins — Indian hitters "looked very aggressive," Murrie said. "But today they were stymied."

In only two innings Sunday did Arkansas State have more than one runner on base at a time.

In the seventh, Chris Unrat walked and Jose Gomez and Mark Rose both reached on bunt singles. A fly out to left scored Unrat. Alepra struck out Kevin Simler for the second out, and Derek Alfermar ended the inning by grounding to second. It was 1-1.

Gomez opened the ninth with a single. Alepra struck out Rose on three straight pitches and walked the next hitter, Ripley McWilliam, on

Staff Photo by Paul Bersebach

Hilltopper victory over Arkansas State at Nick Denes Field.

Continued On Page 10
Column 1, This Section

BASEBALL TOPS

continued from Page

four straight. Chris Robinson flew to right for the second out.

The game appeared over when a pinch-hitter Kendal Honea sent a high pop over the middle of the infield. The ball plopped in and out of Davis' glove.

"It's part of the game," Alepra said afterward.

Chris Floyd flew to right for the third out.

"To succeed at this level, a pitcher has to control the game," Murrie said. "Andy made it look easy today. He never deviated from his style."

The victory put Western a game up on Jacksonville and a game behind Arkansas State in the Sun Belt Conference East Division standings. Three teams from the division advance to the league tournament, and Western is in third place with a weekend series at ASU

in Jonesboro remaining on its conference schedule.

"Before the game, one of our captains said that we needed to win the game, no matter who gets the hands," Eglich said. "Now our playoff chances are still in our own hands."

Eglich had the biggest hit of Western's five: a triple to the right-center wall that scored Clay Wiedenbein. Eglich came home on a throwing error on the same play to

give Western its 3-1 lead.

"Right before the pitch, Coach told Wiedenbein to get a good jump in case the ball gets in the gap," Eglich said.

The sky showered steadily on Nick Denes Field through the first six innings Sunday, leaving the field slick.

"I just didn't want Clay to concede to only reaching second or third if the ball got in the alley," Murrie said. "There was enough

moisture on the ground that if the ball was hit hard, I thought it would probably scoot to the wall."

The Tops will take another animation week off before weekend series at Arkansas State.

Arkansas State.....000 000 100-1
Western Kentucky.....000 001 20X-3
Win-Alepra, 2-2. Loss-Monahan, 2-3.
ros-(Arkansas State) Floyd. (Western) Davis, Wey-
Double-(Arkansas State) Rose, Triple-(Western) Eg-
Stolen base-(Western) Eglich. Records-Arkansas St-
30-20; Western 27-19. Time-2:25. Attendance-146.

5-3-93

BASEBALL TOPS

continued from Page 8

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Arkansas State 000 000 100-1 8 1
Western Kentucky 000 001 20X-3 5 2
Win—Alepra, 2-2. Loss—Monahan, 2-3. Errors—(Arkansas State) Floyd (Western) Davis, Weyers, Double—(Arkansas State) Rose, Triple—(Western) Eglich, Solen base—(Western) Eglich. Records—Arkansas State 30-20, Western 27-19. Time—2:25. Attendance—146.

Hilltoppers need victory, luck to make tournament

By ERIC WOHLER
The Daily News

5-9-73

The Hilltoppers could win today's series finale with Arkansas State and still need one more victory to advance to the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

A coin flip.

On Saturday, Western Kentucky University's baseball team split a doubleheader with the Indians in Jonesboro, Ark., losing the first game 1-0 and winning the second 5-2. Meanwhile, Jacksonville beat Arkansas-Little Rock twice, leaving the Sun Belt East Division playoff situation unsettled.

Arkansas State clinched the division's second berth. South Alabama entered the final weekend of conference games with a playoff spot secured.

The final berth from the East will go to the Hilltoppers if Western beats Arkansas State at 2 p.m. today and Jacksonville loses at home to UALR. Should both Western and Jacksonville win today, a coin flip will decide the last spot.

Whether Jacksonville wins or loses, a Western loss sends the Dolphins to the tournament.

"It's not the worst scenario imaginable," Hilltopper coach Joel Murrie said. "If we win, there's still a chance we can go. It would be nice to get some help from Little Rock, but it looks like they've closed things down."

The Trojans, who entered the weekend with the slimmest of playoff hopes, lost 11-1 and 17-2 Saturday.

"In one way, it's good," Murrie said. "We know that we have to win. Even if Little Rock wins, it doesn't help us if we lose. So there's no point looking over our shoulder to Jacksonville."

Murrie jumbled his pitching rotation to start sophomore left-handers Andy Alepra and Greg Monelle on Saturday, and the move worked.

Alepra — who pitched a 3-1, complete-game victory over Arkansas State a week ago in Bowling Green — limited the Indians to six hits, two walks and an earned run in the first game Saturday.

The Indians' lone run scored in the second inning on Kevin Simler's infield single, which capped a two-out rally.

Western threatened in the third, putting runners on first and third.

And in the seventh, Bryan Lawrence "missed a home run by about a foot," Murrie said. The ball bounced off the right-field wall, and Lawrence was safe with a one-out double. A pair of fly outs stranded Western's designated hitter.

"There was a severe wind blowing in," Murrie said. "It was definitely a pitcher's day."

The run that proved so elusive for the Tops in the first game scored in the first inning of the second. Ryan Hepworth, who reached base on a lead-off walk, moved to third on a pair of ground outs and scored on Lawrence's single.

One of the four hits and the only walk Monelle allowed came in the fourth as Arkansas State took a 2-1 lead.

Western regained the advantage or good in the fifth when Nesbitt singled and Bill Weyers doubled to open the inning. Nesbitt scored on Lawrence's grounder; Weyers came round on Sean Thomas' fly to center.

"We had outstanding pitching today, and the big reason was because both pitchers had good control,"

Sun Belt

Sun Belt Conference baseball standings, Saturday's results and today's schedule:

East Division	
South Alabama	11-6
Arkansas State	11-9
Jacksonville	10-10
Western Kentucky	10-10
Arkansas-Little Rock	5-12
West Division	
Lamar	12-5
Louisiana Tech	11-8
Southwestern Louisiana	10-8
New Orleans	8-10
Texas-Pan American	5-15

—Clinched playoff berth.

Saturday

Jacksonville 11-17, Arkansas-Little Rock 1-2
Southwestern Louisiana 8-5, New Orleans 7-2
Lamar 17-3, Texas-Pan American 2-0
Western Kentucky 0-5, Arkansas State 1-2

Today

Arkansas-Little Rock at Jacksonville
New Orleans at Southwestern Louisiana
Texas-Pan American at Lamar
Western Kentucky at Arkansas State

Murrie said. Alepra allowed two walks, Monelle one.

Saturday night, Murrie was unsure who he would start on the mound today.

"Left-handers have given Arkansas State trouble, and we have Shaun Smith available," Murrie

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Smith is 3-2 w run average. Bern 6.26 ERA. Both ar Arkansas State will likely throw s Pat Monahan (2-3,

By hitting 40 season, Western h for the Bowling Department's D Resistance Educatio For each Hillto McDonald's donate Before Western's Denes Field agains p.m. Wednesday, n far will be presented

First game
Western Kentucky
Arkansas State
Win — Lyons, 5-2. Loss — Al sas State) Lyons. Double — (W 2:00. Attendance — 626.

Second game
Western Kentucky
Arkansas State
Win — Monelle, 4-1. Loss (Western) Phillips; (Arkansas S (Western) Weyers; (Arkansas Sta bases — (Arkansas State) Fk Western 28-20, Arkansas State tendance — 390.

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Arkansas State*	11-9
Jacksonville	10-10
Western Kentucky	10-10
Arkansas-Little Rock	5-12
West Division	
Lamar*	12-5
Louisiana Tech*	11-8
Southwestern Louisiana*	10-8
New Orleans	8-10
Texas-Pan American	5-15
*—Clinched playoff berth.	

Saturday
Jacksonville 11-17, Arkansas-Little Rock 1-2
Southwestern Louisiana 8-5, New Orleans 7-2
Lamar 17-3, Texas-Pan American 2-0
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Today
Arkansas-Little Rock at Jacksonville
New Orleans at Southwestern Louisiana
Texas-Pan American at Lamar
Western Kentucky at Arkansas State

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"Left-handers have given Arkansas State trouble, and we have Shaun Smith available," Murrie

said. "We might also go with Darin Bernhard, though."

Smith is 3-2 with a 7.48 earned-run average. Bernhard is 5-4 with a 6.26 E.R.A. Both are juniors.

Arkansas State coach Bill Bethea will likely throw senior right-hander Pat Monahan (2-3, 3.63).

By hitting 40 home runs this season Western has raised \$1,000 for the Bowling Green Police Department's Drug Awareness Resistance Education program.

For each Hilltopper home run, McDonald's donates \$25 to DARE. Before Western's game at Nick Denes Field against Kentucky at 3 p.m. Wednesday, money raised thus far will be presented to DARE.

First game
Western Kentucky000 000 000—0 4 0
Arkansas State010 000 00X—1 6 1
Win — Lyons, 5-2. Loss — Alepra, 2-3. Error — (Arkansas State) Lyons. Double — (Western) Lawrence. Time — 2:00. Attendance — 626.

Second game
Western Kentucky100 022 0—5 7 1
Arkansas State000 200 0—2 4 1
Win — Monelle, 4-1. Loss — Horn, 5-2. Errors — (Western) Phillips; (Arkansas State) Floyd. Doubles — (Western) Weyers; (Arkansas State) Gomes, Olivas. Stolen bases — (Arkansas State) Floyd, Unrat. Records — Western 1-20, Arkansas State 31-21. Time — 2:05. Attendance — 390.

Western beats Indians, loses playoff berth

by ERIC WOEHLE
The Daily News

5-16-83

The Hilltoppers knew they had to win Sunday and Monday. What they did not realize was that they had already lost on Friday, and now their season is down to three games and three days.

Western Kentucky University's baseball team beat Arkansas State 3-1 in Jonesboro, putting the Tops in a three-way tie for second place in the Sun Belt Conference East Division with ASU and Jacksonville.

The top three teams from both Sun Belt divisions advance to the league tournament, and the Indians were awarded the second spot based on their 3-0 record against last-place Arkansas-Little Rock. Western and Jacksonville each were 4-2 against UALR.

"So it's about 10 seconds after we win the game," Hilltoppers coach Joel Murrie said. "I'm down on the field shaking main Smith's hand or Robb Taylor's hand, and they announce we're not going."

A coin flip — performed Friday — decided the Sun Belt tie in New Orleans to neither team's knowledge — favored Jacksonville.

Western would have had to match Jacksonville win-for-win this weekend to make the tournament. Instead, the Tops lost the first game of the series in Jonesboro 1-0 before winning 5-2 and 3-1. Jacksonville, meanwhile, won its three over UALR by a combined 43-5.

"What a farce," Murrie said. "What a farce to end such beautifully played games by saying, 'Great job, guys. But we flipped a coin, and you lost.'"

On Sunday, for the third straight time, a Western headwind and stiff wind into home plate frustrated Arkansas State's hitters.

Andy Alepra and Greg Monelle both pitched complete games Saturday. Smith, a junior, started Sunday and limited the Indians to two hits, four walks and an earned run across eight innings. He was relieved by Taylor, a junior right-hander, who worked the ninth for his fifth save.

"You never really know how a club's going to respond to different situations," Murrie said. "I was so pleased with our intensity the entire weekend. It was very satisfying."

"A coin stake at any time could have cost us a game, but it never happened. Even the game we lost, we did not beat ourselves — which had been a bit of a trait of this team earlier in the season."

Western took a 1-0 lead in the second inning Sunday when James Davis led off with a walk and scored on Clay Wiedenbein's two-out double. The game-winning run came home in the fifth when Bryan Lawrence reached on a fielder's choice and — running on the pitch — scored from first on Davis' double to left field.

By this point, Jacksonville had completed its sweep of UALR and clinched its playoff berth. Murrie had earlier asked the ASU public-address announcer to not reveal that score until after the game in Jonesboro.

The Tops added a run in the sixth — John Eglich singled home Chris Phillips — to take a 3-0 lead before Arkansas State threatened.

In the seventh, Chris Floyd led off with a walk, and Willie Olivas followed with a single. Floyd scored in the process, but Smith retired the third, fourth and fifth hitters in the ASU batting order on ground outs to end the inning.

"For a purist, they were great games to watch," Murrie said. "We made the plays defensively, we hit spots, we put the ball on the ground, we were putting down bunts, stealing bases — all of things we needed to do to win. To hit the ball 350 feet with that kind of wind, ... well, you would have been a man."

"We beat the elements, and we beat the opposition."

But the Tops didn't beat Jacksonville in a coin flip, and now

Western's schedule is reduced to three games at Nick Denes Field: 1 p.m. Tuesday against Alabama, 1 p.m. Wednesday against Kentucky and 3 p.m. Thursday against Vanderbilt.

"There's no equity. We all have to play 21 conference games, but we have to play four series on the road and Jacksonville plays four at home," Murrie said. "The bottom line is — and this is the truth — we were denied a chance at a national championship by a coin flip. I'm not saying we would have made it that far, but ... in no other sport in our league is that opportunity denied this way."

"People are going to say it's sour grapes. But you've got to let the players control their own destiny. And I really do believe I'd feel that way, regardless of how the coin toss had come out."

Western Kentucky010 011 000 3 8 0
Arkansas State000 000 100 4 2 2
Win—Smith, 4-2. Loss—Monahan, 2-4. Save—Taylor, 5.
Errors—(Arkansas State) Floyd, Rose. Doubles—(Western) Davis, Wiedenbein. Stolen bases—(Western) Eglich, Lawrence, Weyers; (Arkansas State) Olivas. Records—Western 29-20, Arkansas State 31-22. Incomplete—2:30. Attendance—424.

Sun Belt

Final Sun Belt Conference baseball standings and Sunday's results:

East Division	
South Alabama	11-6
Arkansas State	11-10
Jacksonville	11-10
Western Kentucky	11-10
Arkansas-Little Rock	5-13

West Division	
Lamar	13-5
Louisiana Tech	11-8
Southwestern Louisiana	10-9
New Orleans	9-10
Texas-Pan American	5-16

*—Clinched playoff berth.

Sunday
Jacksonville 20, Arkansas-Little Rock 2
Lamar 7, Texas-Pan American 0
New Orleans 6, Southwestern Louisiana 5
Western Kentucky 3, Arkansas State 1

W. Kentucky 010 011 000-3 8 2
Arkansas SL 000 000 100-1 2 2
Smith, Taylor (9) and Davis, Monahan,
Millerd (6), Howell (8) and Unrat, W —
Smith (4-2), L — Monahan (2-4), 28 —
Davis (WKU), Wiedenbein (WKU), Records
— Western Kentucky 24-20, 11-10 in Sun
Belt; Arkansas State 31-22, 11-10 in Sun
Belt. C. J. 5-10-53

Hilltoppers close season with trio of SEC foes

A Daily News report 5-11-73

Western Kentucky University's baseball team, denied a spot in the Sun Belt Conference tournament by a coin flip, ends its season this week with three games at Nick Denes Field beginning at 3 p.m. today against Alabama.

"I'm putting the monkey on the players' backs," Hilltopper coach Joel Murrie said. "Are they going to drop their heads and blow up every time something goes wrong in their lives?"

After winning two of three games at Arkansas State last weekend, Western (29-20 overall) finished 11-10 in the conference and in a tie for second place in the Sun Belt East Division with Jacksonville and ASU. The top three teams in both Sun Belt divisions make the league tournament.

ASU was awarded the East's second spot in the playoffs because of its 3-0 record against Arkansas-Little Rock. Jacksonville and Western were both 4-2 against UALR. A coin flip gave the final berth to the Dolphins.

That leaves today's game, a 3 p.m. Wednesday clash with Kentucky and 3 p.m. Thursday matchup with Vanderbilt on Western's schedule. All three teams are in the Southeastern Conference.

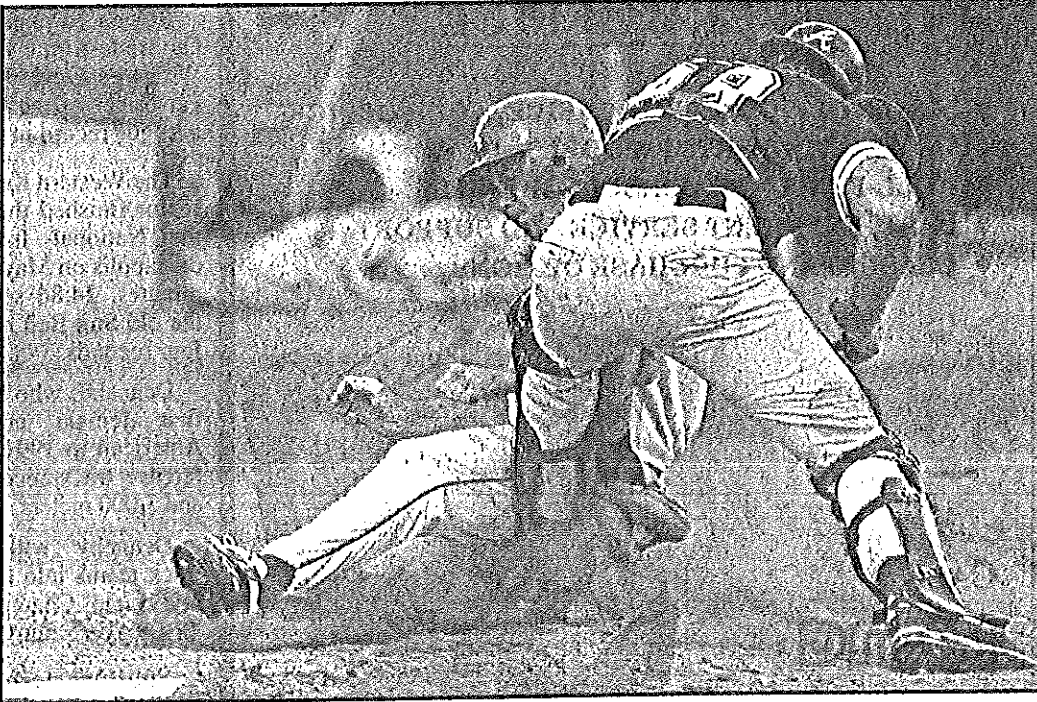
"This year, we're kind of in a lame-duck situation," Murrie said. "But why not go out and win three against the top league in the country?"

Meanwhile, by hitting 40 home runs this season, Western has raised \$1,000 for the Bowling Green Police Department's Drug Awareness Resistance Education program.

For each Hilltopper home run, McDonald's donates \$25 to DARE. Before Western's game at against Kentucky on Wednesday, money raised will be presented to DARE.

At Bowling Green
Alabama 120 300 016—13 13 1
Western Ky. 041 000 303—11 18 0
Colgrove, Weems (6), Sullenberger (7),
MacDonald (8), Lewis (8) and Hill, Bern-
hard, Morrow (6), Taylor (9), Smyth (9) and
Thomas (W) — Sullenberger (1-6); L —
Morrow (1-2); 2B — B. Anderson (A), Lau-
benthal (A), Shelton (A), Plannenstiel (W),
Thomas (W); 3B — Laubenthal (A), Nesbitt
(W); HR — Stone (W), Wiedeman (W).

C. J. 5-12-93



Staff Color Photo by Joe Imel

WESTERN'S Barry Nesbitt (left) is tagged
out at home plate by Alabama catcher Geno

Saunders during Tuesday's game at Nick
Denes Field.

D/V 5-12-93

Frustrations mount for baseball Tops; Wildcats visit today

By ERIC WOELTER

The Daily News

5-12-53

When it was over, batting helmets were slammed to the ground, gloves were thrown against the back of the dugout and feet were stomped.

Another day, another disappointment as Western Kentucky University's baseball season wanes.

The Hilltoppers took an 8-7 advantage into the top of the ninth inning against Alabama, allowed six runs and then saw a rally of their own cut short by a fine defensive play and close call at second base.

"A very frustrating loss" is how Western coach Joel Murrie described the 13-11 decision Tuesday at Nick Denes Field. It follows a very frustrating weekend for the Tops when, after playing perhaps their best baseball of the season to win two of three intercollegiate duels at Arkansas State, they were denied a

spot in the Sun Belt Conference tournament by a coin flip.

The trip from Jonesboro, Ark., to Bowling Green is a long one, anyway. The turn of events certainly did not make the six hours pass any more quickly.

"It wasn't just a few guys let down — the whole team was let down," second baseman Chris Phillips said. "We did what we could (to make the tournament), but you have no control over a coin flip."

And yet if frustration was lingering when the Tops took the field against Alabama, it did not show. Murrie started all juniors to offer a

C-J. Baseball 5-13-53

At Bowling Green
Kentucky 401 020 000-7 11 1
Western Ky. 000 004 002-6 9 1
Frazier, Reid (5), Reed (5), Morse (5) and
Hindersman, Alsop, Cook (5), Smyr (5)
and Davis, W. — Frazier (7-3), L. — Alsop
(2-4), 2B — Bragg (0), Gonzalez (0),
Jackson (0), Phillips (0), HR — Brooks (0),
Jones (0), Davis (0), Nesbit (0), Records
— Kentucky 34-17-1, Western 29-22

preview of things to come, and the lineup responded with error-free defense and aggressive offense.

"In a lot of ways, today was the start of next season," Murrie said. "Why not come out and show me today what I can expect next year?"

Alabama led 3-0 when Western opened the second inning by putting its first five batters on base. Singles by Greg Stone and Phillips, a sacrifice fly by Barry Nesbit and Sean Thomas' double scored a run each, and the Tops were up 4-3.

Clay Wiedenbein's ninth homer of the season put Western ahead 5-3 before Alabama scored three in the fifth to regain the lead and chase the Tops' starting pitcher, Darin Bernhard.

Reliever Eric Morrow retired the first six Crimson Tide hitters he faced and held Alabama at six runs through the seventh inning when

Play stopped with both Alabama baserunners standing on third. Eglich tagged both. Menechino was called out. Shelton, safe. Murrie charged the umpire.

"Sometimes," Murrie said later, "it's difficult to make the tough call."

Alabama completed a six-run inning and took a 13-8 lead.

Western's futile comeback started slowly. No runs had scored and only one runner was on base with two outs.

Still, the Tops had closed the gap to 13-11 and had bases loaded when Alabama summoned its third pitcher of the inning, Derius Lewis.

"We've been a big-inning ball team all year," said Bryan Lawrence, a pinch-hitter whose walk pushed in the last of Western's

So would Western at 3 p.m. today against Kentucky or at 3 p.m. Thursday against Vanderbilt. Both games are at Denes.

Alabama 120 300 016-13 13 1
Western Kentucky 041 000 309-11 16 0
Wfn.—Sullenberger, 1-0, Loss—Morrow, 1-2. Save—Lewis, 1. Error—(Alabama) General Double—(Alabama) Anderson, Landertal, Shelton (Western) Phareschal, Thomas, Triples—(Alabama) Landertal, (Western) Nesbit, Home runs—(Western) Stone, Wiedenbein, Stolen base—(Alabama) Oliver. Records—Alabama 28-21, Western 29-21. Time—3:35. Attendance—254.

runs. "It can always happen."

spot in the Sun Belt Conference tournament by a coin flip.

The trip from Jonesboro, Ark., to Bowling Green is a long one, anyway. The run of events certainly did not make the six hours pass any more quickly.

"It wasn't just a few guys let down — the whole team was let down," second baseman Chris Phillips said. "We did what we could (to make the tournament), but you have no control over a coin flip."

And yet if frustration was lingering when the Tops took the field against Alabama, it did not show. Murrie started all juniors to offer a

preview of things to come, and the lineup responded with error-free defense and aggressive offense.

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Reliever Eric Morrow retired the first six Crimson Tide hitters he faced and held Alabama at six runs through the seventh inning when Western's offense fired again. Stone's two-run homer made it 7-6, and Nesbitt's triple scored John Eglich to make it 8-6.

Alabama added a run in the eighth and one more in the ninth before Morrow gave way for Robb Taylor. With runners on second and third and one out, Taylor appeared to have worked out of the inning when Chris Smalley sent a high bouncer toward Western's third baseman, Eglich.

The Tide's runner at third, Jerry Shelton, started for home. Eglich threw to Thomas, Western's catcher. Thomas chased Shelton back up the third-base line. Shelton reached third, and Thomas threw to Phillips to try to get out Alabama's Frank Menechino, who was retreating to second.

Again, Shelton broke for home. Phillips threw to Eglich at the plate. Menechino reversed his track backs to third as Eglich chased Shelton back up the third-base line.

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"We've been a big-inning ball team all year," said Bryan Lawrence, a pinch-hitter whose walk pushed in the last of Western's runs. "It can always happen."

Mark Pfannenstiel sent Lewis, 3-1 pitch hard into the middle of the infield. Alabama's shortstop, Eddie Generelli, caught it on its first bounce, fell and tossed to second to force out Lawrence.

"I really don't like games like that," said Alabama coach Barry Shollenberger, who preceded Murrie as Western's coach. "But I'll take a 'W,' whether it's ugly or not."

30 WOULD WATCH AT 7 p.m. today against Kentucky or at 3 p.m. Thursday against Vanderbilt. Both games are at Dene.

Alabama..... 120 300 016-13 13 1
Western Kentucky..... 041 000 303-11 18 0
Wf—Shollenberger, 1-0. Loss—Morrow, 1-2. Save—Lewis, 1. Error—(Alabama) Generali, Doubles—(Alabama) Anderson, (Alabama) Shelton, (Western) Pfannenstiel, Thomas, Triples—(Alabama) Laudenthal, (Western) Nestor, Home runs—(Western) Stone, Wiedenbein, Seven base—(Alabama) Oliver. Records—Alabama 26-21, Western 29-21. Time—3:55. Attendance—254.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 10, 1992

By GEORGE RORER
Staff Writer

C.J. 5-13-92

Baseball is a game of numbers. Western Kentucky University senior first baseman Bill Weyers has put up some big ones. Batting average? .429 before yesterday's home game against Kentucky. That's best in the Sun Belt Conference.

On-base percentage? .514.
Doubles? 16.
Home runs? 6.
RBIs? 43.

"That's a great accomplishment as it is," said Western Kentucky coach Joel Murtie. "He has been highly successful at the Divi-

sion I level for two years, and for two years in junior college (Des Moines Area Community College in Iowa)."

Weyers has excelled in the same collegiate conference that produced the Cincinnati Reds' No. 1 draft choice of last June, former Central Florida outfielder Chad Mottola. In 1991-92, Weyers out-hit Mottola (.378 to .329), while Mottola hit more home

Despite his gaudy numbers, four area big-league scouts appraised Weyers yesterday totaled a collective, "Who?"

Why the lack of interest?

"Maybe it's my not hitting with much power," Weyers said, "but other than that, I couldn't really tell you."

Murtie says he's mystified, too.

"The scouts have seen him, but he doesn't seem to be on anyone's list as a pro prospect," the coach said. "I'm a college baseball coach, not a scout, and I understand scouts have got a job to do. But in baseball we seem to dwell on negatives."

"Bill is one of those guys who if you looked at him for the first time, you'd say

tain locations. But every time up he seems to hit the ball hard. The main thing about him is his ability to avoid going through peaks and valleys. In only five games (through 50) has he failed to get a hit. Every time he seems to come up with a hit."

Weyers said he is disappointed at the lack

add up to shot at pro ball

of interest, and if it's power hitting the scouts want, he'll try to accommodate them. Like Mottola, he's big — 6 feet 3, 210 pounds — and he's certainly strong enough to hit home runs.

"I don't know why I don't hit many," Weyers said. "I'm mostly a line-drive hitter. I've got a pretty long stride, and I'm trying to shorten it."

Weyers, a native of Kimberly, Wis., has perseverance in his bloodline. He's a cousin of former Notre Dame and Pittsburgh Steelers running back Rocky Bleier, who didn't let war wounds to his legs deter him from completing his National Football League career.

If Weyers isn't drafted, he said, he'll keep

trying.

"Coach Murtie got a flyer from the new Frontier League," he said, "and I may give that a shot."

The Frontier League, not affiliated with either the major or minor leagues, is scheduled to open this summer.

Murtie said he hopes Weyers will get a chance and, if he does, he'll be surprised if he fails.

"He has a strong desire to play professional baseball," the coach said. "As an outsider looking in, I would like to see an individual who's been in the major leagues have a chance to fail (as a pro). I'd like to see a decision made on the field and not through speculation."

Tops again fall short, end season today

By ERIC WOHLER
The Daily News

Another ninth-inning rally fell short for the Hilltoppers. This time, all Paul Jackson could do was smile and shake his head.

"Sometimes, you start to think you're on top of the game, and then it can turn on you so quick," Western Kentucky University senior right-fielder said. "It just makes you want to work that much harder. I guess that's why I love it so much."

Western trailed Kentucky 7-0 after five innings Wednesday at Nick Denes Field. With two out in the bottom of the ninth, the Tops were still behind 7-4.

Bryan Lawrence reached first when his grounder sent UK's Jeff Michael deep into the hole at shortstop. Robb Taylor was summoned to run for Lawrence but only had to jog around the bases when James Davis — with a count of no balls and two strikes — clubbed his second home run of the season.

Jackson was up. In 1992, Jackson was a first-team All-Sun Belt Conference choice. He hit .362 with 13 home runs and a league-best 62 runs batted in. Two-out, ninth-inning, game-winning situations were his specialty.

But his last season on the Hill has been a hard one for "Jackpot." And his final at-bat Wednesday was fitting of his .247 senior season: a meek pop to third base for the final out in Western's second straight loss, 7-6.

The season ends at 3 p.m. today when Vanderbilt

visits Denes Field.

"It's been a good four years," Jackson said. "But it would be nice to go out with a win because this has been a frustrating ending."

Western finished in a three-way tie for second place in the Sun Belt Conference East Division but will not take part in the league tournament because it lost a coin toss to Jacksonville last weekend.

That left three games on the schedule. In the first of those, Western led Alabama 8-7 heading into the ninth inning Tuesday, slipped behind 13-8 and lost 13-11.

Wednesday's game turned into trouble quickly. It was 4-0, UK, after one inning, 5-0 after three and 7-0 through five.

"We could have folded," Western coach Joel Murrie said. "It looked like they could have scored 15 or 16 runs if we had let up."

Barry Nesbitt led off the sixth with a home run. Bill Weyers, Lawrence and Davis then drew consecutive walks to load the bases.

Jackson grounded to the second baseman, Eddie Brooks, who tossed to Michael to force Davis out at second. Michael's throw to first

soared into the UK dugout. Weyers and Lawrence scored, and Jackson was safe at second base. Jackson came home with Western's fourth run when Chris Phillips doubled.

In the meantime, Western reliever Doug Smyly was handling UK's offense. He gave up a single in his first inning of work, the sixth, then struck out the next four batters.

Jackson doubled to open the eighth, and Phillips followed with a walk. But neither scored as Clay Wiedenbein and John Eglich both flew out to shallow right, and Ryan Hepworth grounded to the second baseman to end the inning.

Smyly held UK scoreless again before Western's bottom-of-the-ninth rally fell short.

"I believe the club wants to win; I believe they want to go out a winner," Murrie said. "But that's easier said than done when you're playing teams of this quality."

Kentucky.....	001 020 000-7 11 1
Western Kentucky.....	000 004 002-6 9 1
Win—Frazier, 7-3. Loss—Alejo, 2-4. Save—Morise, 6.	
Errors—(Kentucky) Michael; (Western) Eglich. Doubles—	
(Kentucky) Bragga, Gonzalez; (Western) Jackson, Phillips.	
Home runs—(Kentucky) Brooks, Jones; (Western) Davis,	
Nesbitt. Stolen base—(Kentucky) Thamerl. Records—	
Kentucky 34-17-1, Western 29-22. Time—3:04.	
Attendance—391.	

1901-1902 **Baseball** *1901-1902*
 At Bowling Green
 Vanderbilt ... 012 100 411 0-10 12 0
 Western Ky. ... 032 022 010 1-11 13 2
 Pendley, McDonough (3), Velez (6),
 Daunic (6), Daniels (8) and Ellison, Carpen-
 tor, Smith (7), Morille (8), Wiedenbein (8)
 and Lawrence. W — Wiedenbein (1-0). L —
 Daniels (1-3). 28 — Daunic (V), Purdy (V),
 Jackson (W), Thomas (W). HR — Purdy (V),
 Whatley (V), Hopworth (W), Weyers (W).
 Records — Vanderbilt (28-21-1), Western
 (30-22).

G. J. 5-14-23

Tops close year with win over Vanderbilt

By ERIC WOehler

The Daily News 5-14-83

Dean Carpenter started and pitched into the seventh inning. Paul Jackson swung a wood bat. Ryan Hepworth hit a home run. Bill Weyers fielded third base.

And yet the most rare of sights at Western Kentucky University's final baseball game of the season was good fortune, finally finding the Hilltoppers to cap a week of bad luck.

Western beat Vanderbilt 11-10 in 10 innings Thursday at Nick Denes Field. The 75th season of Hilltopper baseball ended with a 30-22 record.

The biggest loss of the year came a week ago. It wasn't on the baseball field, and the Tops didn't even realize they were playing. Western lost a coin toss to Jacksonville at the Sun Belt Conference office in New Orleans, which would eventually keep the Tops out of the league tournament.

After learning Sunday of their



Staff Color Photo

WESTERN KENTUCKY'S Chris Phillips (left) awaits the throw as a Vanderbilt player tries to steal

second during Thursday's game at Nick Denes Field. Western ended its season with an 11-10 win over the Commodores.

snub, Western faced a trio of games against Southeastern Conference foes at Denes Field to end its season. The first two of them — a 13-11 loss to Alabama on Tuesday and 8-7 loss to Kentucky on Wednesday — did little to lift the Tops' spirits, as ninth-inning Western rallies were cut short in both games.

On Thursday, Western entered the ninth with a 10-9 lead. Vanderbilt tied the game when, with two outs, Alan Purdy scored from third on a

wild pitch.

"And I was thinking, here we go again," admitted Weyers.

In the bottom of the ninth, Western had one out and bases loaded. Clay Wiedenbein — who led the Tops with nine home runs this season — was at bat with a count of three balls, no strikes. He grounded into a double play to end the inning.

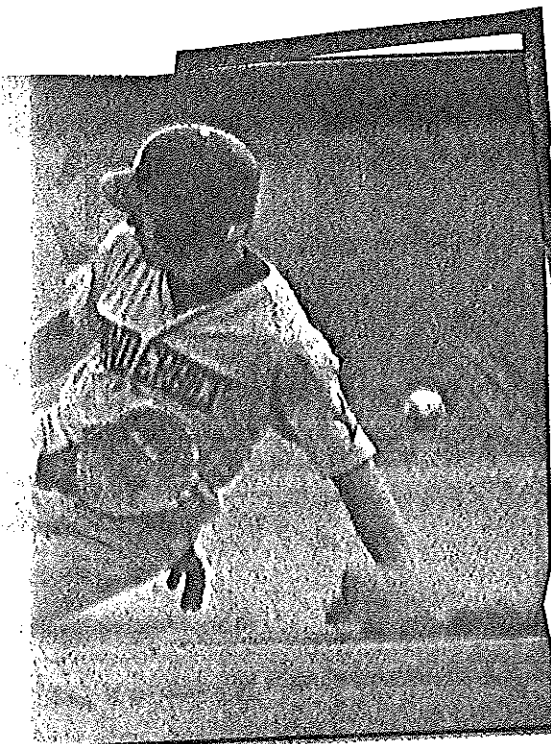
In the top of the 10th, Wiedenbein, who started at shortstop, pitched

ed; Jackson, who fielded, played first base the regular first base third.

"We had no coach Joel Murrie strictly a matter of ries."

The defensive Weyers fielded a

Continued On



Staff Color Photo by Joe Imel

and during Thursday's game at Nick Denes Field. Western ended its season with an 11-10 win.

here we go
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the ninth,
and bases
in — who
e home runs
bat with a
o strikes. He
e play to end

ed; Jackson, who started in right field, played first base, and Weyers, the regular first baseman, was at third.

"We had no choice," Western coach Joel Murrie said. "It was strictly a matter of too many injuries."

The defensive shifts worked. Weyers fielded a grounder and

th, Wieden-
ortstop, pitch-

threw to Jackson for Vandy's first out. Wiedenbein struck out Boomer Whipple for the second and retired the next Vandy batter on a shallow fly to center.

In the bottom of the 10th, Western had two on and two out with Jackson at bat. Jackson had forsaken the wood bat he had used in getting two hits in the game for aluminum. No matter — he was intentionally walked to load the bases.

"I was hoping they would challenge me," said Jackson, the only one of five seniors to play all four years at Western. "There was no question I was going to get a hit."

Instead, James Davis did — a hard grounder into left field — and Hepworth trotted in with the winning run.

"This one, I'll remember," Weyers said. "It's my last college game."

As it was for Jackson, Hepworth, Carpenter and Bryan Lawrence. All five seniors started the game. Carpenter was used primarily for relief in his two seasons on the Hill but pitched six innings on Thursday.

The Sun

"Dean's a 50-pitch man normally, and he was close to 90 today," Murrie said. "When I went out to talk to him in the seventh, I asked him how he felt, and he said, 'I'm done, unless you want 55-foot fastballs.'"

Carpenter gave up seven hits, four walks and five runs. He struck out six.

"Vanderbilt's as good a hitting ballclub as you'll find in the NCAA," Murrie said. "Dean did an outstanding job."

Western took its 10-9 lead when Hepworth hit the second home run of his career and first of the season.

"I hit them when I have to," Hepworth said with a laugh. "It's our 30th win, and it's good to go out strong."

"I wish we were going to the tournament, though. We're playing awfully good baseball right now."

Vanderbilt.....012 100 411 0-10 12 0
Western Kentucky.....032 022 010 1-11 13 2
Win—Wiedenbein, 1-0. Loss—Daniels, 1-3. Errors—
(Western) Wiedenbein 2. Doubles—(Vanderbilt) Daunic,
Purdy; (Western) Jackson, Thomas. Home runs—
(Vanderbilt) Purdy, Whatley; (Western) Hepworth, Weyers.
Stolen bases—(Vanderbilt) Nelson, Whipple, Elliott;
(Western) Eglich. Records—Vanderbilt 28-21-1, Western
30-22. Time—3:35. Attendance—345.

Classified Advertising Index

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING	
2 Real Estate For Sale	46 Announcements
3 At Auction	47 In Memory
4 Mobile Homes For Sale	48 Card of Thanks
5 Mobile Homes For Rent	50 Insurance
6 Apts. For Rent	62 Home Improvement
8 Rooms For Rent	64 Building Materials
10 Rentals to Share	65 Spring Planting
12 Houses For Rent	66 Lawn & Garden
14 For Rent	67 Trucks/Trailers/Vans
16 Vacation Rentals	68 Autos For Sale
18 Business/Industrial	69 For Sale Or Trade
For Rent or Sale	62 Campers & Travel
20 Office & Retail	Trailers

Continued On Page 10

Baseball: three Tops hopeful for draft

By ERIC WOEHLE

The Daily News 5-19-93

Professional baseball contracts are not rewards for good collegiate performance, which makes the major-league draft difficult to figure.

Three seniors on Western Kentucky University's team — Ryan Hepworth, Paul Jackson and Bill Weyers — believe they have a chance to be selected when the draft begins June 3.

But they need only to look back less than a decade in the Hilltopper media guide to have their optimism doused.

Rob Tomberlin, a third baseman, posted school records that still stand of 100 hits and 27 home runs in his senior, 1985 season.

"He was a first-team All-American," Western coach Joel Murrie said, "and he didn't get drafted."

"What you have to understand," Murrie said, "is that they are not result-oriented in pro ball. ... You can go zero for four and hit the ball hard four times — or just get in four good swings; you don't even have to hit the ball — and a scout might be impressed. And yet there are days when you can go four for four and not show anybody anything."

Weyers, a first baseman from Kimberly, Wisc., broke the school record for consecutive-game hitting streak and batted .422 this season. His average is tops in the Sun Belt by 40 points and it ranks 20th nationally.

But "no one has expressed interest in Bill," Murrie said. "He's going to hit some try-out circuits and take his shot at those."

"I think I can play," Weyers said. "I'm going to try to get into the Frontier League (a developmental league preparing for its first year of play) if nothing happens in the draft."

Murrie expected to lose Jackson after the 1992 season when he hit .362 with 13 home runs and 62 runs batted in. Instead, scouts waited a year on the right-fielder from La Grange, and Jackson's statistics slipped significantly: .252 with seven homers and 36 RBI.

"Paul's problem wasn't really physical," Murrie said. "It was a case where he wanted something very badly — to play pro ball — and he probably dwelled on it too much. He's certainly not the first one to fall into that trap."

"As a result, Paul ended up fighting himself as much as his opponent."

Jackson's chances, however, remain good, largely because of the ability he's shown hitting with a wood bat. In a wood-bat league last summer, Jackson was co-most valuable player. And with a pro scout in the stands for Western's final game of the season — an 11-10 win over Vanderbilt on May 13 — Jackson had two hits in three trips to the plate with a wood bat.

"I've been contacted by a couple of teams — the Brewers and the Twins," Jackson said. "I may not be drafted, but I should get a shot through the free-agent route. I think with my play last year and last summer, I've proven I can move to the next level."

Hepworth has the commodity perhaps most valued by pro scouts — speed — though you would hardly realize it from his senior-season statistics. Hampered by a leg injury, Hepworth, a center-fielder from Pensacola, Fla., stole eight bases. In 1991, he set a Western record with 35.

"Ryan needs his speed to get into pro ball," Murrie said. "Unfortunately, he played 40 games this year at less than full strength. ... Still, of the three, I think he might get drafted earliest."

Hepworth is unsure of his chances.

"I think I can make the adjustment," he said. "But some days the scouts like you; some days they don't. Nobody knows how the draft will really go."

Sun Belt names Weyers top player

Western Kentucky University's Bill Weyers, who led the Sun Belt Conference with a .422 batting average, was named the league's player of the year.

Weyers, a senior first baseman from Kimberly, Wis., also had seven home runs and 45 runs batted in.

Weyers



came to the Hill from

BILL WEYERS

Des Moines Area Community College in Iowa. In 1992, he hit .378, third-best in the Sun Belt, and carried a hitting streak into his senior season that eventually strung to a Western-record 46 games.

The Hilltoppers finished the season 30-22.

Weyers was the only Western player named to the all-Sun Belt team. Lamar's Phil Brassington, a pitcher who was chosen as most valuable player of the Sun Belt tournament, was named the league's top freshman. Lamar's Jim Gilligan was picked as top coach. 17 16 7-25-9 3

Free-agent success Haynes

On the farm

Statistics for Southcentral Kentuckians or former Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers in minor-league baseball (name followed by level, team and organization):

Chris Turner, AAA, Vancouver, Angels, .333	avg.	ab	r	h	2b	3b	hr	th	bb	k	sb
Greg Graham, A, Port St. Lucie, Mets	.333	75	13	22	3	1	0	14	18	9	1
		3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Glen Carter, AA, El Paso, Brewers		2	1	4	9	2	0	0	20	17	6
Ken Edertield, AA, Midland, Angels		0	2	3	7	17	0	0	2	31	29
Heath Haynes, AA, Harrisburg, Expos		3	0	2	0	8	15	0	1	17	12
Paul Riggs, AAA, Louisville, Cardinals		6	1	3	0	5	8	3	0	59	56
Larry Shikes, AAA, Tacoma, Athletics		0	2	4	5	19	2	0	2	27	31
Mark Thompson, A, Central Valley, Rockies		3	2	2	1	5	10	0	0	63	39

Abbreviations: avg., batting average; ab, at-bats; r, runs scored; h, hits; 2b, doubles; 3b, triples; hr, home runs; th, runs batted in; bb, bases on balls; k, strikeouts; sb, stolen bases; w, wins; l, losses; era, earned run average; g, games; gs, games started; c, complete games; s, saves; ip, innings pitched.

By ERIC WOEHLE
The Daily News
5-31-92

The major-league baseball draft begins Thursday. Three former Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers will jump every time the phone rings — maybe it will be their future calling, maybe just a wrong number.

Two years ago, Heath Haynes sat by the phone waiting, and it didn't ring until after the draft was over. The Montreal Expos were offering him a free-agent contract — meaning he would be paid about as

offers hope for three Tops

little as the title suggested.

But it also meant a chance, and Haynes took it.



Two years later, he's one of the most effective pitchers for the team with the best record in pro baseball. With the 34-9, Class AA Harrisburg Senators, Haynes has a 3-0 record, a

2.08 earned-run average and the attention of the big-league Expos.

"Strange things happen in baseball," Haynes said. "Just to get a chance to play, there are so many variables involved."

Variables which may or may not be in favor of Ryan Hepworth, Paul Jackson and Bill Weyers, who completed their careers at Western this month.

Hepworth is a center-fielder who set a Western record with 35 stolen bases in 1992 before a leg injury slowed his senior campaign.

Jackson, an outfielder, figured to be a prime pro prospect after his 13-home run, 62-RBI spring and stellar showing in a wood-bat summer league in 1992, but his senior season was a letdown. Weyers was among the nation's top 25 hitters this spring with a .422 average and was named Sun Belt Conference player of the year, but the first baseman has drawn little interest from pro scouts.

win on their home court," Eddie

Haynes can remember such days. In his senior year, 1991, Haynes had his share of sparkling statistics — a 2.80 ERA and 10-5 record — but also a few numbers that turned away scouts.

At 6 feet, 175 pounds, Haynes didn't intimidate too many batters. And his fastball, clocked in the mid 80s on its best days, overwhelmed even fewer of them.

"The scout who eventually signed me," Haynes said, "saw me pitch just one game."

The night game. He struck out 15, walked none and worked all nine innings of a 3-2 Western win over Kentucky in Lexington.

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"I still feel to this day that if it hadn't been for that game, I wouldn't be where I am now," Haynes said. He was turned into a relief pitcher and posted a 10-1 mark with 15 saves in his first summer of pro ball. Last season, he split time between Class A Rockford and Harrisburg and combined for a 5-1 record and 15 saves.

Haynes has only one save so far this season. But his role with the Senators is mostly that of a set-up man, "a one-out or two-out pitcher," he said. "Basically, I'm being thrown into all types of situations. We're all juggling roles, which is fine because we're winning."

Harrisburg moved to nine games ahead of second-place Bowie in the Eastern League by winning a pair over Albany on Friday. The Senators have won 17 of their last 19 games. "Everyone wants to move up in the organization," Haynes said. "But we have a great team concept, and that's why we're winning." Haynes is also confident he has the attention of the parent club. About a month ago, the Expos played an exhibition game against their Class AAA affiliate, Ottawa. Haynes was called up for the game and pitched two innings for the major leaguers. "You know they're not going to call a guy up for something like that unless they're interested in him," Haynes said. "I think I've shed the free-agent label."

Baseball Tops sign ex-Purples, Wildcats

By ERIC WOEHLE

The Daily News

7-20-93

Joel Murrie has looked closer to home to find players who can take his baseball team farther.

Bowling Green High School graduates Jay Wilder and Troy Campbell and former Franklin-Simpson High standout Janos Briscoe will join Western Kentucky University's baseball team.

The three join Franklin-Simpson's James Davis and Bowling Green's Eddie Sharer as former Fourth Region players on the Hilltopper roster.

Wilder, who can play first base and the outfield, was the last of the trio to sign.

"I decided about a week ago," said Wilder, who batted .414 with 11 home runs for the Purples in the spring. "There were a lot of factors that went into my decision, but staying close to home was a big one. I know a lot of people around here. ... It's a good social situation at Western."

Wilder also considered Clemson, Evansville, Northeast Louisiana, Mississippi and Vanderbilt.

"Jay has some qualities that we like," said Murrie, Western's coach. "But like any other player coming out of high school, there are some areas he needs to improve on to flourish at the Division I level."

With the graduation of Bill Weyers — last season's Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year — first base is an open position heading into the 1994 season.

"There is an immediate opening," Murrie said. "But Jay's going to have to work hard to earn his chance."

There's also room in Western's

lineup for Campbell, a right-fielder who transferred to Western after playing the 1991 season at Central Florida.

"Troy's a guy we wanted out of high school," Murrie said. "He opted for the warmer weather, but we're glad to have him back. ... He will likely be the strongest arm in our outfield."

Murrie will find room for Briscoe, whose pitching led Franklin-Simpson to the 1991 state championship. Briscoe will have two years of eligibility with Western. He is transferring from Tennessee State, which dropped its program after last season.

"We didn't play Tennessee State last season, so we asked a scout who saw Janos pitch," Murrie said. "He looked me straight in the eye and said he would have been the best pitcher on our staff this year. ... I don't know if that's a fair analysis, but I do know what Janos can do."

Briscoe said he throws five pitches, his fastball topping out at 91 mph. He had hoped to sign a professional contract this spring, but scouts — because Briscoe is only 20 — told him they would wait at least another year before drafting him.

"That's when I decided I better find another school," Briscoe said. "I talked to my mom about it. ... From the beginning, she thought Western might be a little too close to home — that I wouldn't be able to keep my mind on my business."

"But I told her that if next season was going to be my last of college ball, I wanted to be close enough so my family could come see me play."

Murrie hopes lights attract fans, players

Installation of lights at Western Kentucky University's baseball field has begun.

"This is certainly one of the most significant steps in the history of our program," Hilltopper coach Joel Murrie said. "Not only will this create a positive economic impact for us, but it can be a really significant factor in our recruiting efforts, as well."

Lighting 1,050-seat Nick Denes Field, which opened in 1969, will cost \$187,045. Money was provided entirely by private donors, through the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation.



JOEL MURRIE

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